

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 14, 2019

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Local Jobs for Michigan's Graduates Program Receives State and National Recognition

TRAVERSE CITY, MI— Staff members with the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) program in northwest Michigan have received state and national recognition for their work with the program. The awards include Specialist of the Year, Peak Performance Award, and recognition for meeting or exceeding national standards. The awards were presented at the JMG Summer Summit in Lansing. The JMG program is coordinated in the region by Northwest Michigan Works!.

Lisa Baldyga, the JMG Specialist at the Traverse Bay Area Career Tech Center, was honored as a JMG Specialist of the Year for inspirational service, and dedication to high standards of excellence. LeAnne Bush, the JMG Specialist at the Wexford-Missaukee Career Tech Center, received a Peak Performance Award from JAG for student success and program performance.

Along with the individual awards the JMG program in northwest Michigan received a national 5-of-5 Award from the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Board of Directors for the fourth year in a row. The individual JMG programs at the Char-Em, Traverse Bay Area, and Wexford-Missaukee ISDs also received 5-of-5 recognition. Those awards were given for meeting or exceeding national standards in five categories measuring student success, including graduation rate and job placements.

Jobs for Michigan's Graduates is the leading program of Youth Solutions, Inc., a premiere youth opportunity organization delivering employability and education services to nearly 3,000 young people across more than 40 cities. Youth Solutions is the state-based affiliate of the national Jobs for America's Graduates organization (jag.org), one of the largest and most successful school-to-work systems in the United States. The JMG model consists of a comprehensive set of services designed to keep young people in school through graduation and improve the rate of success in achieving education and career goals. For more information on Youth Solutions and its Jobs for Michigan's Graduates programming, visit ouryouthsolutions.org.

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Board Chair: **Gary W. Fedus**
Chief Executive Officer: **Matt McCauley**



NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: networksnorthwest.org/media

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, Small Business Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our website, networksnorthwest.org

Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.

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Northwest Michigan Works! is supported by the State of Michigan and is a proud partner of the American Job Center Network. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may call the Michigan Relay Center by dialing 711. Equal opportunity employer/program. This project may have been funded with federal funds. Visit the Networks Northwest website for more information at nwm.org/financial.