

Jobs for America's Graduates New Jersey TRANSFORMING LIVES

JAGTM

— New Jersey



The Road to Graduation April 2025

Legislative Day at the NJ State Capitol with
Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz and Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson

JAG New Jersey Receives a Proclamation from the New Jersey State Legislature

Trenton, NJ – On March 24th, JAG New Jersey (Jobs for America's Graduates) achieved a significant milestone, receiving an official proclamation from the New Jersey State Legislature. The honor, presented by Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, recognized JAG NJ's dedication to empowering young people across the state.

The day was further enriched by special remarks from Senators Teresa Ruiz and Vin Gopal, who lauded the program's impact on student development and its contribution to building a strong future workforce. The Senators emphasized the importance of programs like JAG NJ in providing essential skills and opportunities to students, particularly those facing significant barriers.

The celebration coincided with a day of impactful engagement for JAG NJ Leaders, who traveled to the state capitol to meet with 14 legislators. This provided the students with a unique opportunity to directly interact with policymakers, share their experiences, and gain firsthand insight into the legislative process. The day also included a comprehensive tour of the state capitol, offering a valuable educational experience and fostering civic engagement.

"This proclamation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our JAG Specialists and the remarkable growth of our student leaders," stated Sandra Strothers, Executive Director of JAG NJ. Donna Custard, President of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation thanks the legislators for their participation and recognition of the program, "We are deeply grateful to Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Majority Leader Ruiz, and Senator Gopal for their support and recognition. The opportunity for our students to meet with so many legislators and tour the capitol was truly invaluable."

JAG NJ is committed to equipping young people with the academic, employability, and life skills necessary to achieve success in their careers and personal lives. The program's focus on mentorship, leadership development, and real-world experiences is making a tangible difference in the lives of students throughout New Jersey. The proclamation from the state legislature serves as a powerful affirmation of JAG NJ's vital role in shaping the future of the state.



State Career Association President Alberto Romero speaks with Senator Vin Gopal and Michael Egenton, Executive Vice President Government Relations, NJ Chamber of Commerce



Pinelands Regional and Willingboro High School Leaders meet with Senator Eliana Pintor Marin



JAG NJ Leaders from Weequahic High School waiting to meet with the legislators

JAG New Jersey Events and Activities: Legislative Day Photo Gallery



JAG NJ Specialist Sheri Lowery joining the JAG NJ Leaders on the state capitol tour.



State Career Association Officers display proclamation with Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson



Camden High School JAG NJ Leaders and Specialist, with Senator M. Teresa Ruiz



JAG NJ Leaders and Specialists from Plainfield and Rahway High Schools enjoyed their meeting with Assemblyman Sterley S. Stanley



JAG NJ Leader from Pinnacle Academy, Plainfield School District with Specialist Michelle Dabney



JAG NJ Leaders from Vineland High School enjoyed their meeting with Senator Michael Testa

JAG New Jersey Events and Activities: Legislative Day Photo Gallery (contd.)



JAG NJ Leaders from Weequahic High School and Specialist, Dr. Alyson Beausoliel-Holt ready for the next meeting



JAG NJ Leaders from Malcolm X Shabazz High School prepared to present the JAG New Jersey program



Willingboro High School JAG NJ Leaders and Specialist, Kenny Scott arrive at the NJ State Capitol rotunda for the presentation



Barringer High School JAG NJ Leaders and Specialist, Charles Shepherd ready for the NJ State Capitol tour



Majority Leader with Rahway High School and JAG NJ State Career Association officers

Left Photo: JAG NJ Leaders from Central High School with Specialist Stacey Ragin completing their tour

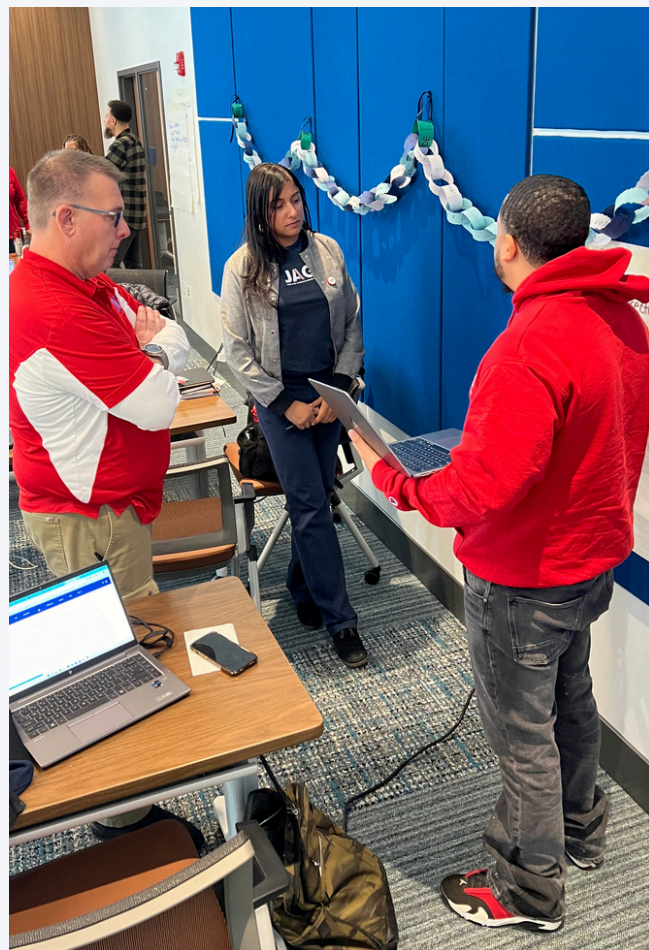
Preparing for the Next Step

As we head into the last stretch of the academic year, JAG Specialists are focused on graduation preparations, ongoing student coaching, and equipping JAG NJ Leaders with resources for summer opportunities, training, and college admissions.

Program visits are underway, providing valuable insights into the Specialists' effective practices and the significant student growth observed since program inception. JAG classes are rich and diverse, incorporating project-based learning, novel studies, targeted mini-lessons, financial literacy instruction, circle practice, Career Association activities, collaborative group projects, guest speaker presentations, and participation in college fairs and local events.



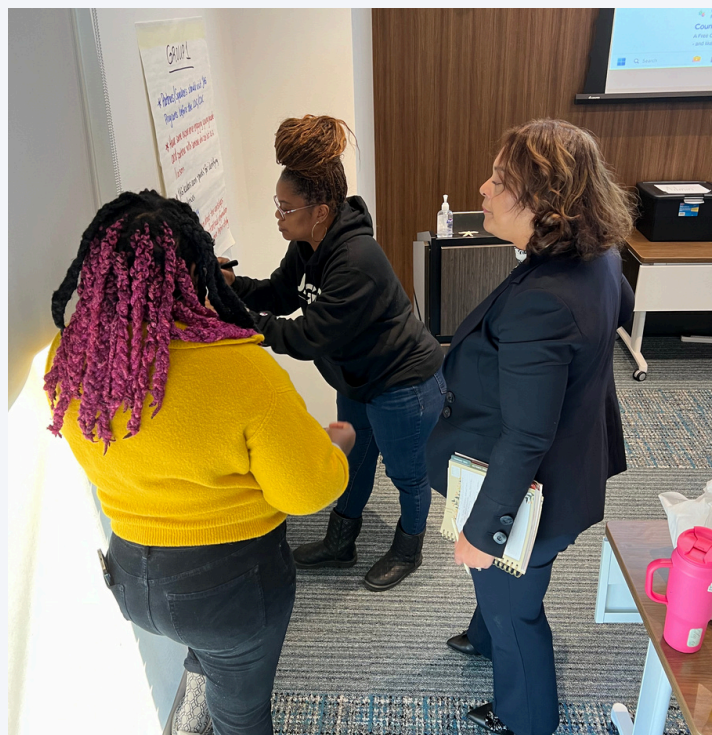
Harvey Mills, JAG NJ Specialist at Woodbury High School, facilitating a group discussion



L to R: Robert Rush, Vineland High School, Rafeeza Shahabudeen, Shabazz High School, Michael Esquerre, Plainfield High School



**JAG NJ team discussing leadership workshops
L to R: Kenny Scott, Willingboro High School, Elizabeth Clark, Plainfield School District, Michelle Dabney, Pinnacle Academy, Plainfield, Charles Shepherd, Barringer High School**



**JAG NJ Specialists collaborating on innovative instruction
L to R: Sheri Lowery, Camden High School, Jennifer Bogar-Richardson, Plainfield High School, Josephine Parr, Eastside High School, Camden**

Graduation Rate

96%

College Admission 2-Year Institutions

**Camden County College
Essex County College
Gateway U
Hudson County Community College
Ocean County College
Passaic County Community College
Raritan Valley Community College
Rowan County College at Glassboro
Rowan College of Burlington County
Rowan College of South Jersey Cumberland County
Mechatronics Innovation Learning Lab RCSJ
Union County College**

College Admission 4-Year Institutions

**Felician University
Howard University
Kean University
Lackawanna College
Lincoln University
Montclair State University
Norwich University
Old Dominion University
Rowan at Glassboro
Rowan University
Rutgers University Newark
St. Elizabeth University
St. Peter's University
Stockton University
West Virginia University
William Paterson University**

EMPLOYMENT INDUSTRY SECTORS

**AGRICULTURE
APPAREL
CONSTRUCTION
EDUCATION
ENTERTAINMENT
FOOD & BEVERAGE
GOVERNMENT
HEALTHCARE
HOSPITALITY
NOT FOR PROFIT
RECREATION
RETAIL
SHIPPING
TECHNOLOGY
TRANSPORTATION**



Jennifer Bogar, JAG NJ Specialist
Plainfield High School



Elizabeth Clark, Supervisor
Plainfield School District

JAG New Jersey Makes its First Appearance at the College Board *Dream Deferred* Conference

Congratulations to Jennifer Bogar-Richardson, JAG NJ Specialist at Plainfield High School and Elizabeth Clark, Supervisor, Plainfield School District for their workshop and presentation at the 2025 College Board Dream Deferred conference in Los Angeles.

The Dream Deferred Conference focuses on supporting students of color in their quest for higher education opportunities. The workshop included an overview of JAG, a presentation of the postsecondary outcomes of current JAG students at Plainfield High School, and best practices employed in the classroom that impact student achievement, growth, and preparation for life after high school.



New Partner Joins the NJCCF Team

Dr. Dorothy Handfield, Management Consultant

We are delighted to introduce Dr. Dorothy C. Handfield, a distinguished educator with a profound commitment to urban education. Dr. Handfield serves as the consultant Program Manager for the Community-Based Violence Intervention grant, bringing extensive experience from her 25-year career with the Newark Board of Education, including 15 years of impactful leadership as a Principal.

Her academic credentials reflect her dedication to educational excellence, holding a Bachelor of Business Administration from Temple University, a Master of Arts in Educational Media Specialization from Kean University, a Master of Educational Administration from Caldwell University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California. In addition, she is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Certified Anger Management Specialist.

Dr. Handfield's research on the effects of trauma and community violence on children, particularly those who are neurodivergent, informs her valuable training sessions for parents and guardians in low-income, urban communities. In her consulting role, she provides critical support in facilitating program and grant reviews for JAG NJ.

Jobs for America's Graduates New Jersey
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