

WELCOME TO THE

Partnership Pulse

we're so glad you're here!

Volunteers are an integral part of the Jobs for America's Graduates New Jersey program, providing career exposure, in-classroom guest lectures, mentorship, leadership workshops and working closely at JAG NJ student events. See what some of our volunteers have to say about working with JAG NJ students:

“In 2014, I had my first experience with JAG, and since then, I've eagerly participated every year as my schedule permitted. There's something incredibly rewarding about knowing that my questions, suggestions, and insights resonate with students, enhancing their experience. I loved every minute of it! This journey has opened my eyes to the disparities faced by marginalized students across urban, suburban, and rural areas, revealing the varying resources allocated to bridge these gaps. I walked into TCNJ one day, and a student approached me with enthusiasm, saying, “Mr. Burt, I'm so happy you're here! I learned so much from you last year, and I can't wait to share our project with you this time!” It was a heartwarming reminder that I truly made a difference! Witnessing those "Light Bulb Moments," when a student grasps a concept or gains clarity on taking their idea to market, is the highlight of my journey. Each interaction fuels my passion for empowering the next generation!”

*Russell Burt, Aflac
JAG NJ volunteer since 2014*



“ Judging the Career Development Conference is something I look forward to. I have been a volunteer judge for the JAG NJ program for the last 5 years. Watching the videos and seeing the students’ various submissions always amazes me. You can see the teamwork that it takes to create their projects. What I enjoy most is experiencing the students’ pride in the program, by how they express it. Most of my time has been in the virtual space, but I must say you can still feel the excitement of the students as if I was right in front of them. JAG helps the students prepare for the future and provides them with skills needed for their future. ”



Carla Covino, Berkeley College
JAG NJ volunteer since 2020



“ My first experience volunteering with JAG NJ was great. The students were interested and engaging. It was a pleasure to talk about the possible career paths in the engineering industry and explain that despite what most people think, not everyone in the engineering industry is a “math person”. It was especially exciting seeing that one of the team building activities was making spaghetti towers. Working with the students and talking through engineering concepts that they have seen in the real world before and how they could replicate them was awesome. Their faces when the lightbulb went off were priceless! ”



Matt Ryan, Van Cleef Engineering
JAG NJ volunteer since 2024



“As a two-year volunteer at the JAG Career Development Conference, I have witnessed how much JAG helps the participating students. The program focuses on making a real impact, promoting teamwork, and empowering students, which is clear from the enthusiasm of the competitors and their teams. Many students initially joined the program reluctantly, but they have all expressed how it has changed them positively, boosting their confidence and readiness to face challenges. JAG is truly making a meaningful difference in their lives.”



*Anonymous
JAG NJ Volunteer since 2023*

President's Insights



Donna Custard
President
NJCCF

“The JAG NJ program simply wouldn't be possible without the generous time and expertise of our dedicated volunteers from diverse industries. Whether leading classroom discussions on career pathways, facilitating workshops at our Leadership Development Conference, or serving as judges at the Career Development Conference, their impact is immeasurable. Volunteers do more than share knowledge—they send a powerful message to our students: You matter. Your future matters. Their mentorship and encouragement help JAG NJ students build confidence, develop essential skills, and see a world of possibilities ahead. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to shaping the next generation of New Jersey's workforce.”

The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation is dedicated to preparing young adults of great promise for the increasingly competitive worlds of college and careers.

**Want to help shape the next generation of New Jersey's workforce?
Please contact Victoria.Licata@njchamber.com for volunteer opportunities.**

Volunteer Opportunity!

2025 JAG NJ Career Development Conference

WHEN: Monday, May, 19, 2025

TIME: 8:30am - 2:00pm

WHERE: The College of New Jersey

The spring Career Development Conference (CDC) provides students the opportunity to engage in friendly competitions to demonstrate their employability and leadership skills and be recognized for their achievements.

The 2025 CDC will be held in a hybrid format, with eight events taking place in person at The College of New Jersey and three events taking place virtually, and we need approximately 55 volunteers to serve as judges. The theme for the CDC is "JAG NJ--Step Into Success!" and focuses on how JAG gives participants the motivation to strive for excellence in everything they do.



Scan the code to register!

