

MONTHLY REPORT

A MONTHLY REPORT TO THE CSA AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS



January/February 2015

ADDITIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



We are happy to report the commitment by three highly respected leaders to join the Board of Jobs for America's Graduates.

Following a review of the convincing success of Jobs for Arizona's Graduates, **Governor Doug Ducey of Arizona**, after only six weeks in office, has committed to join the National Board



Governor Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, after his own review of the success of Jobs for Arkansas Graduates and following a good discussion with our Chair, Gov. Phil Bryant, has also committed to join the National Board. Governor Hutchinson continues in the tradition of Arkansas Governors Mike Huckabee and Mike Beebe in serving on the Board – further reflecting the bipartisanship of JAG at the national and state levels.

Florida Senate Majority Leader **Senator Bill Galvano**, designated to be the President of the Florida Senate in 2019, has also enthusiastically joined the Board following discussions with former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Will Weatherford (a JAG Board member), Ken Smith, and Heather Beaven, President of Jobs for Florida's Graduates.



Upon their election, this will increase the number of sitting governors on the Board of Directors to nine.

NEWS AROUND THE NETWORK

Dianma Keller, Dropout Prevention Coordinator in the Office of College and Career Readiness in the Department of Education and CSA Representative of The Donna Contois Louisiana Jobs for America's Graduates, is fully back at work after her second round of surgery and reports that she is "doing well" and appreciates all the kind wishes...

Planning for the **Spring Board of Directors** Meeting beginning at approximately 1:00 on May 20 in Billings, Montana. The meeting, which will be hosted by Governor Steve Bullock and chaired by Governor Phil Bryant, is coming together nicely. The Board meeting will last until approximately 5:00 pm and will be followed by a reception and working dinner at the Yellowstone Museum in Billings, where the focus will be on the remarkable success of Jobs for Montana's Graduates in some of the most rural environments anywhere in America. The next day we will discuss the opportunities and the challenges of bringing JAG to scale among the majority Native American high schools across Montana with the support of USA Funds ...

We are pleased that, in her new role as Deputy Superintendent of Schools in Minneapolis/St. Paul, **Elia Bruggeman**, who managed Jobs for Minnesota Graduates in six schools in the Northwest Suburban Integration School District near Minneapolis/St. Paul prior to the conclusion of the program, has secured the resources to launch the JAG Model in seven high schools, serving disadvantaged youth and a diverse population including Somalian and Latino students. The return of the Minnesota program after a hiatus of three years brings us to 32 states operating the JAG Model program. We are making plans for further expansion in the Twin Cities, as early as the 2015-16 school year...

TRAINING ACADEMY TO EXPAND THE JAG OUT-OF-SCHOOL/DROPOUT RECOVERY PROGRAM APPLICATION

The Federal government has recently passed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which replaces the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) legislation that has governed the state and local job training systems for the past 18 years. The new law has dramatically shifted in favor of out-of-school youth. Seventy-five percent of the funding received through this Act must now be spent on serving out-of-school youth, although on average Workforce Boards today only spend about 30% on this group. WIOA takes effect on July 1.

Based on the broad range of interest across the JAG Network following the briefing that the Affiliates leadership received at the November Planning Meeting about the key elements for a successful Out-of-School/Dropout Recovery Program Application, a larger-than-expected crowd (more than 40) met in Ohio, where we have some of our best Out-of-School examples, for three days of intensive training and development.

The focus was on how to best design and execute the Out-of-School offering and how to prepare proposals to Workforce Boards for funding the JAG Out-of-School Model Application. This training session was part of the direction from the Board of Directors to equip the State Affiliate system with the skills they need to present and effectively execute the JAG Out-of-School/Dropout Recovery Program Application. Our great appreciation to Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG) for hosting the event and for their leadership role in providing training as one of our most effective Out-of-School program deliverers.



ENGAGEMENTS AT THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING

The largest and most important meeting of the National Governors Association (NGA) occurs each year on the last full weekend in February. These events provided opportunities for Ken Smith and Janelle Duray, with the help of Governors Phil Bryant, Jack Markell, Mike Pence, Jay Nixon, and Steve Bullock (all JAG Board members), to discuss JAG with many of the Governors in attendance. Governor Bryant, our Chair, and Governor Markell, our former Chair, did an outstanding job in reaching the nine new Republican and four new Democratic Governors between them to present the case for JAG and ask them to consider implementing or expanding the program.

Among the results from those meetings were:

- Three of the new Governors – Doug Ducey of Arizona, Asa Hutchinson of Kansas, and Ken Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands – have all agreed to join the JAG Board of Directors, even though all were only six weeks into their governorship. All three have also requested plans to build upon their existing JAG organizations.
- The Governors of Rhode Island, Maryland, Nebraska, Massachusetts, Illinois, and Pennsylvania have requested concept papers to implement JAG in their states.

We found opportunities to meet with the following Governors to express our appreciation for their commitments to JAG and our readiness to help:

- **Governor Brian Sandoval of Nevada**, who is requesting that his Legislature quadruple the existing \$1.5 million appropriation for Jobs for Nevada's Graduates in the current biennial budget to grow the program to 50 or more schools in the next two years. This would take the funding for the Jobs for Nevada's Graduates program to \$6 million.
- **Governor Jay Inslee of Washington State**, who has made a first-time request for a \$500,000 appropriation to expand Jobs for Washington State Graduates.
- **Governor Dan Malloy of Connecticut**, who is seeking \$2 million in the biennial budget to expand the four-school test program there – another first-time appropriation.
- **Governor Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire**, who has committed to pursue all available federal and state funds to build upon the success of New Hampshire-JAG.
- **Governor Terry Branstad of Iowa**, whom we have encouraged to increase the current appropriation from \$650,000 to \$1 million.
- **Governor Paul LePage of Maine**, who has proposed a \$600,000 increase to the current \$2.3 million appropriation for expanding Jobs for Maine Graduates.
- **Governor Jay Nixon of Missouri**, who has committed to seek a first-time appropriation of \$500,000, plus \$1 million from Community Development Block Grants and state education funding to dramatically expand Jobs for Missouri Graduates.
- **Governor Mark Dayton of Minnesota**, whom we have encouraged to consider increasing the commitment of the Minneapolis-St. Paul School District to implement JAG in four schools this year.
- **Governor Terry McAuliffe of Virginia**, whom we thanked for the increased appropriation for the second year of the biennial budget that will add six new schools to Jobs for Virginia Graduates.

MULTIPLE GOVERNORS PROPOSE NEW AND INCREASED FUNDING FOR JAG

We could not be more pleased with the new initiatives by a number of Governors to expand and/or implement the JAG Model through proposed funding in their budgets submitted to the State Legislatures. At this hour, 24 states are considering state appropriations – the highest number in our history.

- **Governor Phil Bryant**, our Chair, is seeking to more than double the appropriation in Mississippi (from \$1 million to \$2.5 million) to provide critical support along with matching Federal and local school funds, to reach 100 schools by July 1.
- **Governor Brian Sandoval** of Nevada has proposed *quadrupling* the current two-year total of \$1.5 million over the past biennium to \$6 million over the next two years. These funds would take the Nevada program to at least 50 and, likely, more schools by the end of that two-year cycle.
- **Governor John Kitzhaber** has proposed \$750,000 to establish JAG-Oregon for the first time in the state. Regrettably, the Governor resigned by surprise in late February, but we are making every effort, with the help of supporters in Oregon, to educate and inform the Legislature about the value of the JAG Model.
- **Governor Jack Markell** is seeking increased funding from his State Legislature and redirecting additional TANF resources to sustain and grow Jobs for Delaware Graduates.
- **Governor Rick Scott** of Florida has included, for the first time, a \$3 million appropriation that was put in place by the Legislature last year without being a part of the Governor's budget. Having it as part of Governor Scott's budget brings major value in ensuring the long-term sustainability of that appropriation and, perhaps, over time, more.
- On the recommendation of our Board member, State Superintendent Melody Schopp, **Governor Dennis Daugaard** of South Dakota has proposed a near *quadrupling* of the state support over two years – from \$275,000 to \$925,000, combined with funds at the local level.
- **Governor Steve Bullock**, our Vice Chair, has proposed a 30% increase in the current \$1 million line item, in addition to redirecting various Federal funds to help support the expansion of Jobs for Montana's Graduates to his goal of 100 schools from the current 55. As part of that strategy, he is undertaking a concurrent effort to bring the Jobs for Montana's Graduates program to all 25 of the majority Native American high schools over the next two years.
- **Governor Jay Nixon**, also our Vice Chair, has proposed a first-time appropriation of \$500,000 to support the expansion of Jobs for Missouri Graduates, in addition to his commitment of \$1 million of Community Development Block Grants funding.
- **Governor Jay Inslee** of Washington State has proposed boosting the current \$150,000 line item to \$500,000 at the encouragement of our Board member, **State Superintendent Randy Dorn**. Randy has also submitted a request to the Legislature of approximately \$16 million to finance a large-scale effort to reduce the dropout rate in the state, including putting the JAG Model in every school.
- Following a discussion with Governor Bryant, **Governor Robert Bentley** of Alabama has just approved doubling the \$800,000 appropriation to \$1.6 million – first increase in Alabama in JAG history.

Many other states are proposing at least level funding from state appropriations, while working to redirect federal funds to support the expansion of the program, along with expanded matching funding by schools, workforce boards, and private sector supporters.