



A Day for Successes

JMG holds four events for our students throughout the school year, but for most of them, the cherry on top of a successful stint in the JMG program is the Career Development Conference (CDC) in April. Many of our students have been in the JMG program since middle school and have likely heard someone make a reference to CDC, so they are eager to see what all the excitement is about.



Above, in a photo from CDC 2012, Maine State Chamber of Commerce President Dana Connors (far right) presents Portland High School JMG graduate Chrispo Niyokwizerwa with the Chamber Scholarship. Looking on are JMG Board Member Jon Doyle (far left) and Gov. Paul R. LePage.

Held at the Augusta Civic Center on the last Friday in April, this event is a chance for nearly 500 seniors and select juniors to show off the career attainment skills they have been learning in JMG throughout high school. There are individual competitions such as Public Speaking and Employment Interview, and competitions that require teamwork, including Communications, Imagination Station and Group Challenge. Students can also attend a variety of workshops that allow them to hone their networking skills, meet with Maine employers, and learn about opportunities in postsecondary education at the Career and College Expo.

This year's CDC will be held on April 26, and we can't wait to see the amazing achievements of our students. It will be a day for these young men and women to experience success on many levels – from winning a trophy, to overcoming a fear of public speaking, to connecting with other students and business people, to being awarded one of four scholarships that are provided by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and Procter & Gamble.



Above, two students compete in the Presentation Power! event at CDC 2012, where they co-presented the JOY youth philanthropy project that each JMG program participates in.

Last year's Chamber Scholarship was awarded to Chrispo Niyokwizerwa, a 2012 graduate of Portland High School, who is currently taking pre-pharmacy courses at Husson University. In addition to his studies, Chrispo plays indoor soccer and is a member of the university's Student Union for People of Color (S.U.P.C.). He says he appreciates that Husson provides students with quiet, private places in which to study. He admits that college is very different from high school. "College is very tough," he says. "You have to be able to manage your time and talk to people who can motivate you and help you in your academics." He says winning the Chamber Scholarship changed his life. "[It] has made me realize that hard work pays off, and I use that as a motivation in every day of my life at college."

Good luck to all the students participating in CDC 2013. We can't wait to see what form your success takes!

Gardiner JMG Hosts Harlem Superstars

The Harlem Superstars comedy basketball team returned to Gardiner Area High School (GAHS) on March 12 and once again filled Bragoli Gymnasium with laughter, athleticism, and entertainment. Almost 300 people showed up and helped the GAHS JMG Career Association raise more than \$600 to fund future projects.

There were new faces among the Superstars, who delighted the crowd with their usual mix of physical and verbal comedy, tricks, and skills. A new twist on the event had the Superstars 'competing' against players from the University of Maine at



Augusta and Thomas College women's basketball teams. UMA was represented by Corinne Dingley, Katie Gayne, and Allyssa Marson, while performing for Thomas were Liz Goodall, Megan Pelletier, Jazmen Bishop and GAHS JMG alumna Katie McAllister.



"We appreciate their time, effort and good sportsmanship," said GAHS JMG Specialist Matt Burgess. "We hope to keep this collaborative effort going with local college athletic teams in the future. Thank you to all who attended and participated. A special thank you to Dave Tourtelotte from Dave's Diner in Gardiner, who was the 'official' referee."

Gratitude to the Leach Charitable Trust

JMG wants to thank the Elizabeth Ann Leach Charitable Trust for supporting our students in Wiscasset. The Leach trustees have approved a grant for \$15,000 to help JMG cover the costs of providing services at Wiscasset Middle School. The Trust awarded JMG its first grant last year, and we are thrilled that it has decided to continue to invest in Maine students!

Woodland Competes in LifeSmarts

Nineteen students from across the state had an exciting opportunity to participate in a statewide life skills competition at the Unum Corporate Campus on March 1. LifeSmarts (www.lifesmarts.org), a national program established in 1994, is an educational opportunity that develops the consumer/marketplace knowledge and skills of teenagers and can complement the curriculum already in place in middle- and high-schools. A program of the National Consumer League, LifeSmarts is open to all 6th-12th grade students in the United States. In Maine, the program is sponsored by the Jump\$tart Coalition.



LifeSmarts competition topics have been chosen to encourage and reward the students' knowledge in the areas that matter most to consumers and workers in today's marketplace: personal finance; health and safety; the environment; technology; and consumer rights and responsibilities.

March 1 marked Maine's first-ever LifeSmarts competition. The team from Woodland Jr./Sr. High School in Baileyville, coached by JMG Specialist Carl Ripley, was one of Maine's top scoring schools this year. They were among hundreds of students in 40 states who competed online through the late fall and early winter.

Ripley explained that he "used the sources on the website to run classroom lessons, and the students appeared to really be enjoying some of the stuff we were learning about. The students that were chosen as the five to attend the [statewide] competition were excited, yet VERY nervous and doubtful...After we arrived we were taken on a tour of Unum, which was awesome to finally put a picture to the name that we at JMG hear so much about!"

The Woodland students participated in practice rounds the evening before the competition. This clearly made a difference in comfort and confidence. JMG Career Association President Kylee Caruso said, "The mock competition was very helpful, it allowed us to get comfortable with our surroundings and the technology which took a lot of the nerves away for the next day."

Ripley describes the excitement during the live competition: "They competed well in the morning and during lunch they realized they would have to beat the next school to get in to the championship rounds. They fought hard in that next match but in the end lost by only five points. The students were discouraged but I reminded them that just a day ago they thought they would be the first ones out and they made it much further than that!"

"I was extremely proud of my students as I watched them wait for all the celebration to end and pictures to be taken, so that they could congratulate the state champion team and wish them luck [at the national competition] in Georgia. On Monday of the following week I reported back to my principal and informed her that I would like to continue with LifeSmarts and make it a part of my classes again next year!"

LifeSmarts team member Damon Lincoln echoed his coach's excitement: "I learned a lot at the competition, we were fed well, I loved the free stuff, I am pumped to compete again next year!"

Golf Invitational Still Accepting Teams



JMG is still accepting sponsorships and there are still team slots available for the Annual Sea Dog Golf Invitational, which will be held on Saturday, June 8 at Sable Oaks Golf Club in South Portland. For more information or to print a registration/sponsorship form, [please go to our website](#).

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