

# JWG NEWSLETTER

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

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## AI earns Spotlight for April



Students showoff their JAG Certificates

Kitti Wheeler and her students have earned the spotlight for the month of April. The Clover Park AI High school joined the JAG program this school year with Kitti as the lead and she is an MVP as a JAG specialist. In an interview earlier this year Kitti stated that she is “passionate about getting students involved in their schools and community”. She and her colleagues are working on assignments to prepare students for what life is really like after high

school. “My goal is to reintroduce AIHS into the community and to establish partnerships so that students know that people want them to succeed.” with this outlook and positive attitude, there is no doubt the JAG program at AI High School is on a path to success. Students from the AI JAG program have been selected to speak to the legislature on April 7th about what the JAG program means to them and why it’s significant.

## George’s Corner



In this first edition of the newsletter I am mindful of its

historical significance. For all practical purposes, we as a state are finishing up our first year as a JAG state. We have 18 sites, each very different in character, size and student population. It is difficult to make inclusive statements that will hold true to every

program so I will share a series of observations I have been able to make from the state office. Skilled “Specialists”, it took a few tries before some sites settled on whom this person would be but in the end an appropriate match was found for the critical position of who would deliver the model services. The position of Specialist requires a very specific set of skills, of a

greater variety than nearly any other person in our current school settings. We have been really fortunate to have found those persons in most schools and the fact that they have pulled together to form a network of folks willing to support each other and share best practices, successes, challenges, and struggles speaks volumes to their character. Different

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### Welcome new JAG Sites!

Moses Lake High School  
Kent Meridian High School  
New Beginnings at Salmon Creek  
Sartori Education Center  
NW Career and Technical Skill Center  
Wenatchee Valley Technical Skill Center



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**Models:** I appreciate hearing Kathleen Lopp, Assistant Superintendent remind everyone that our goal for this first year is to find a model that will work for each unique school setting. There are 4 distinctly different models to choose from and there is no perfect path to discovering which is best for you. With that in mind we have tried to support Specialists, and administrators to objectively look at each to make the best determination on what will work best for them. In several cases we saw programs change mid-year to find a model that was a better fit, or maybe more sustainable.

**Data collection:** The eNDMS system is critical to our success it guides policy, funding, and planning. Entering the data requires a fairly steep learning curve as seems to be the case with most technologies. We are learning that the practice of entering data becomes less arduous with practice and time. Personally I have learned the rule of “P & P” is required, patience and persistence. Don’t give up, take break when needed, and then continue learning when able, it does get easier. While some features of the JAG delivery system are optional and flexible, keeping current data is not. It really requires all of us to embrace this feature and commit to using it appropriately. We have and continue to offer support in this area and hope to continue that service from the state office.

I am thankful to have worked with a great team of professionals who are really committed to helping an underserved population of students. In spite of all our hurdles of being first year rookies with the system, we are seeing first hand great student successes. We need to share those stories with each other. It is through this process that we remain inspired to continue to do this work. I am inspired by those students and their teachers, coaches, and adults like you who are doing this work.

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## **JWG Board of Directors Meeting Highlights**

The Jobs for Washington Graduates Board of Directors met on March 22nd. Vision of the program, activities, legislative update were all topics of discussion. The Board brainstormed a Public Relations and fundraising event that will take place late September in the Bellevue area, followed by smaller events across the state. Jacob Ripp, a current JAG student spoke to the Board about his journey through the program and how it bettered his life.

The Board took action adopting the By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation as well as electing Officers of the Board, they are as follows:

Chair– Shawn Lindhorst, Archer Daniels Midland  
Vice Chair– Sue Byers, College Success Foundation  
Secretary– Dolores Gibbons, McKinstry  
Treasurer– Kristin Rhodes, Microsoft

Future Meeting Dates:  
June 21, 2011, Bellevue Microsoft Office  
September 22, 2011, TBD

### **April Tips from national By John McConnell**

- Assure the Advisory Committee signs off on any new students. This will add credibility to the program, and create ownership of the JAG program among the key staff in the school.
- Establish, to the best of your ability, a recruiting system that will allow the opportunity to interview next year’s potential participants. JAG programs that have the ability to be directly involved in the selection process have a much higher rate of success.
- Get complete and accurate information into the e-NDMS, particularly student performance, as this will be the baseline data for next year’s returning students.

## **National JAG Training**

The National Training Seminar is the annual professional development opportunity for the 32-state JAG National Network. This year it will be taking place in New Orleans July



13-15th. A few key points of this years conference will be:

- To recognize outstanding performance outcomes by JAG State Organizations, local programs and high performing staff.
- To become more knowledgeable and effective in helping graduates become career and college ready.
- To network with staff across the JAG National Network, share solutions and best practices.
- To learn how to use Kuder Navigator and other technology tools effectively in the classroom.
- To explore new resources, tools and solutions to enhance the JAG classroom and deliver effective follow-up services.
- To value data generated from the e-NDMS tracking of students served, services delivered and outcomes achieved.
- To target students who need, want and can benefit from the multi-faceted JAG Model and the six JAG Program Applications.

You can register for this training online at [www.JAG.org](http://www.JAG.org)