



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

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Governor Kay Ivey
President

ALABAMA JAG STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL HONORS
AT THE 2026 JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES
NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Jackie Zeigler
District I

MONTGOMERY, AL – Jobs for Alabama's Graduates (JAG) programs achieved outstanding national success at the 2026 Jobs for America's Graduates National Career Development Conference (NCDC) in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 29 – May 2, earning **33 awards** across 11 competitive events, service projects, and chapter excellence categories.

Tracie West
District II

Kelly Mooney
District III
President Pro Tem



Students from across the state secured **three National Championships**, multiple top-ten finishes, and **seven Digital Outstanding Chapter** distinctions demonstrating Alabama's leadership in preparing students with strong employability, leadership, and career-readiness skills.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

Marie Manning
District VI
Vice President

Allen Long, M.D.
District VII

National Champions

- *G.W. Carver High School* – 1st Place, Financial Literacy
- *Russell County High School* – 1st Place, Financial Budget Development
- *New Hope High School* – 1st Place, L.O.V.E. Project

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer



Top-Ten National Placements in Career Preparation, Employability Skills, Creative Decision-Making, Financial Budget Development, Knowledge Bowl, L.O.V.E. Project, Financial Literacy, Business Plan, Prepared Speaking, Promo Video, and Project-Based Learning.

—more—

Alabama JAG Students Earn National Honors

Digital Outstanding Chapter Awards earned by Etowah High School, Highland Home High School, Montgomery Preparatory Academy for Career Technologies (MPACT), New Hope High School, Phillips High School, Russell County High School, and Straughn High School.

Service Project Honors awarded to nine Alabama programs for community impact: Andalusia High School, Cherokee County Career and Technology Center, Straughn High School, Montgomery Preparatory Academy for Career Technologies (MPACT), Highland Home High School, Phillips High School, Sylacauga High School, Monroe County Career Tech Center, and Shelby County High School.

Jobs for Alabama's Graduates (JAG) empowers students to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential through targeted educational support and career readiness training. The program pairs JAG-eligible students with dedicated Educational Specialists who provide mentorship, guidance, and individualized instruction to help students graduate and successfully transition into the workforce, military service, or post-secondary education.

Through early intervention strategies, including classroom instruction, counseling, employability skills development, and job placement services, JAG equips students with the tools they need to thrive. This comprehensive approach has resulted in an impressive 95 percent full-time job placement rate, underscoring the determination of JAG students and the effectiveness of the program's support model.

To learn more about Alabama JAG, contact State Director Mandy Nichols at 334-694-4752 or visit the [Alabama JAG Website](#).

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