

JAG-COLORADO

Special points of interest:

- 93% Graduation Rate
- 97% Student Retention
- 61% Postsecondary Placement
- 86 Employability Competencies
- 120 hours per year of contact

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JAG-Colorado

Ascending New Heights

Mares, Gold Receive JAG National Leadership Awards

Mr. Donald J. Mares and Ms. Christina A. Gold were presented with National Leadership Awards in Washington, D.C. in December at JAG's largest annual gathering of supporters with more than 600 corporate, governmental, foundation, organizational and youth leaders attending. Leadership awards are presented to supporters who make a decisive impact on Jobs for America's Graduates and/or our students.

Mr. Mares is Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. Prior to his appointment to Governor Ritter's cabinet, he served as special counsel with Fleishman & Shapiro, P.C. His elected office positions include Denver Auditor and Colorado State Senator and Representative.

Christina Gold is President and CEO of Western Union Company and is responsible for the financial and overall operational performance of the \$4 billion company - a worldwide leader in money transfer, bill payment and prepaid services. Ms. Gold has executive management oversight of a network of approximately 300,000 Agent locations in more than 200 countries and territories. In addition, she oversees an employee base of nearly 5,000 people located in 44 countries.

Prior to joining Western Union, Gold was President and CEO of Excel Communications. She also served as President, Avon North America. BusinessWeek named her one of the top 25 U.S. managers in 1996, and she was recognized in 2003 and

2006 by Fortune magazine as one of America's 50 Most Powerful Women in Business.



Western Union CEO Christina Gold



Don Mares and Miss America, Kirsten Haglund

JAG-Colorado Receives Grant From Anschutz Foundation

In December of 2008, the Anschutz Family Foundation awarded JAG-Colorado \$5,000 to support delivery of JAG Model services to 180 students in Colorado. An additional scholarship of \$2,500 will enable CEO Liz Cannell to participate in Community Resource Cen-

ter's Nonprofit Leadership and Management Program.

Anschutz Family Foundation supports Colorado nonprofits that assist people to help themselves while nurturing and preserving their self-respect. The Foundation encourages endeavor-

ors that strengthen families and communities and advance individuals to become productive and responsible citizens.

JAG-Colorado is honored to have Anschutz Foundation as a supporter.



Western Union Economic Empowerment Curriculum

"This activity made me think about how much we really have and it makes us think about how we budget our money." - Jordan Black

Ft. Lupton Community Service Project

The JAG Career Association at Fort Lupton High School decided on a community service project making stuffed toys (JAG Dolls) that will find their way to children in need.

Critical thinking and decision making are two of the many skills JAG teaches to aid students in achieving success in the 'real world.' JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) is a school-to career program that helps students who have multiple barriers to success stay in school, explore careers, then

head down a career path after graduation. Graduates receive follow-up, guidance and help for at least twelve months after graduation by a 'Specialist' who, in Fort Lupton, is Mr. G. The main goal of the program is to keep kids in school through graduation and ensure that they transition successfully into life—entering postsecondary education, the military or an entry level position that leads to the career of their choosing.

"I support them in their

classes, check their grades once a week, create individual development plans, the plans to overcome their barriers. If they need help, I'll try to help them, if I can't, I try to find somebody who can."

Vicki Ceretto from the Weld County Region 8 Superintendent's office, taught the students to sew. Mr. G, says the students learn pride in their creations, marketing and, in the end, how it feels to help others.

U.S. Secretary of Education Speaks at JAG Event

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings spoke at JAG's symposium "Closing the Achievement Gap in Education and Employment Outcomes for At-Risk Minority Youth" in Washington, D.C. on September 23, 2008. The symposium, led by Maine Governor John Baldacci, was a forum for policymakers and education experts to discuss proven solutions to close achievement gaps.

"This is the first time in the his-

tory of American education that we're able to talk about achievement for all students in terms of facts and realities, not just hopes or habits," Secretary Spellings said. "All of this is because of NCLB. We're seeing progress in the early grades because that's where we've focused our efforts, but older students need more help. I'm glad that JAG is working to help us become a 'nation without dropouts.'"

"Improvement starts with taking an honest look at what's working—and what's not. That's why in April, I proposed regulations to ensure that all states use the same formula to calculate how many students graduate from high school on time—and how many drop out. By shining a light on which students drop out, when, and where, we will not only better diagnose this crisis... we'll be on our way to ending it."

Western Union Economic Empowerment Curriculum

Thanks to a grant from the Western Union Foundation, JAG Specialists have begun teaching an in-depth unit in financial literacy to JAG students and other classmates in four partner schools. The curriculum, called "Financial Tools for Everyday Living", was developed by Western Union in partnership with Jobs for America's Graduates and was released to

all JAG state affiliates in June 2008. The curriculum covers subjects such as budgeting, bill payment, credit, and building savings. The goal is to deliver this curriculum to a total of 250 students. JAG Specialists will also reach out to parents of JAG students to increase awareness of the curriculum in the hope of generating family involvement in

supporting sound financial skills for students. Specialists report an enthusiastic response from students. In fact, in a recent survey, 85% of Justice High School JAG students rated the Economic Empowerment Curriculum as the best part of the course to date.

Colorado Students Attend National Leadership Conference

Each December, Jobs for America's Graduates conducts a National Student Leadership Conference concurrent with its National Leadership Awards in Washington, D.C. This year, 3 students were selected to attend – Emily Hempstead from Justice Academy in Boulder, Albreny Chavez from Jefferson High School in Edgewater, and Alexas Chavez from West High School in Denver.

Their experience began with a VIP reception at Washington's prestigious Cosmos Club,

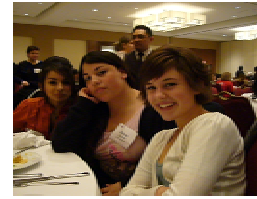
where Mr. Donald J. Mares accepted his award for Leadership in Workforce Development.

The next morning, the students attended a session with Miss America, Kirsten Haglund, followed by the JAG National Leadership Luncheon at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. They heard from an array of speakers that included Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend, Maine Governor and JAG National Board Chair John Baldacci, and Christina Gold, President and

CEO of Western Union Company.

The girls were able to slip in a tour of the U.S. Capitol before commencing a three-day itinerary of leadership workshops, social events, and tours of Washington, D.C.

Albreny Chavez, President of the Jefferson High School Career Association, said of the trip, "It was amazing to feel a part of this organization. Our speakers made us feel responsible for the future of Americans."



Albreny Chavez, Alexas Chavez, and Emily Hempstead at the JAG NSLC.

JAG-Colorado Receives National Awards

Specialists and Central Office Staff from JAG-Colorado attended Jobs for America's Graduates' National Training Seminar and Pre-NTS Workshops in New Orleans in July 2008, where they were pleased to receive several awards for exceptional performance during the 2007-2008 school year.

JAG-Colorado Specialists achieved a graduation rate of

93% for the Class of 2007. They were recognized for meeting or exceeding the JAG national standard of 90%. Keeping non-senior students engaged during the summer months is a key emphasis of JAG programs. With a 97% student retention rate – those non-seniors who returned to school in August or September of the year succeeding participation in the JAG program –

JAG-Colorado exceeded the national standard by seven percent. And, though National JAG has not yet established a minimum standard for attendance in postsecondary education, JAG-Colorado's postsecondary education placement rate, at 61%, was among the highest in the network of JAG state affiliates.

Graduate Profile: Domonic Lara

Domonic Lara stood in front of a roomful of PBS&J employees holding note cards and asked the group to excuse him for being nervous. When he entered the JAG program at Jefferson High School, he said, he was very shy. It wasn't until his Specialist, Claire Monash-Klugler, put him in charge of a fundraiser for a classmate who had been injured in a car accident, that he learned to take charge.

Domonic had thought he was

on course to graduate in May 2008, but he was 2 credits shy. Over the summer, his family moved. His feelings of embarrassment and failure led him to contemplate getting a job and giving up his hope of being the first of his siblings to graduate high school.

He hadn't yet met Ms. Monash. "She called me about 140 times over the summer", he said. "She told me that I needed a diploma to be successful and that she would help me pass

my classes. I graduated in December, and now she is helping me find a job in the restaurant industry."

After hearing a guest speaker talk about culinary arts careers, Domonic has decided to apply to Johnson & Wales in September 2009.

Domonic's audience sat rapt as he related his story. And he needn't have been concerned about his speaking skills—he performed like a seasoned pro.

"I have never been more motivated to come to school and participate as I am now. Thanks to JAG I feel like I cannot participate in enough class discussions or join enough after school activities".
—Ransy Navarro, Ft. Lupton JAG



Domonic Lara

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Jobs for America's Graduates-Colorado, Inc. (JAG-Colorado), a state affiliate of the National JAG Network, is a private nonprofit serving at-risk youth in the State of Colorado. The organization was established in 2005 with funding from First Data Corporation and the City of Denver OED/DWD. Our vision is to be a champion for all Colorado students who face barriers to success and to guide each one onto a successful path to a

JAG-Colorado Supporters

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JAG-Colorado Board of Directors Welcomes New Chair

The Board of Directors welcomes Tim Daly as its new Chairman. Outgoing Chairman Fred Niehaus remains involved with JAG but has handed the reins to Mr. Daly in order to accommodate his increasing global responsibilities with Western Union.

As Senior VP of Government Relations, Tim directs Western Union's government and political advocacy.

Before joining Western Union, Mr. Daly was an attorney at Isaacson Rosenbaum. He served as campaign counsel for now US Senators Mark Udall and Ken Salazar.

From 1998-2001, Mr. Daly was the VP of Legislative and Political Strategy for Qwest and Executive Director of Legislative Affairs for U.S. West, over-



Tim Daly, Senior Vice President for Government Relations, Western Union

seeing legislative strategy in 14 states and directing the Company's political efforts.

He served as Chief Legal Counsel and Legislative Director to Colorado Governor Roy Romer from 1993 to 1998. In 1984 he was the Executive Director of the Wyoming Democratic Party, serving under then Chairman and now Governor Dave Freudenthal.

Mr. Daly earned his law degree from George Washington University in 1988 and a degree in political science with honors from San Diego State University. As an undergraduate, he was an intern at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, specializing in Haitian immigration policy. He is admitted in the State and Federal courts of Colorado.

Tim is an active member of the community. He is a baseball coach in Evergreen, and has been active in political campaigns at the federal, state and local levels. As a member of Governor Ritter's transition team, he was responsible for the Department of Corrections, which is one of the state's largest agencies.