

JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES

JAG™

 *New Mexico*

**2023-2024
ANNUAL REPORT**



THANK YOU TO OUR 2023-2024 DONORS & SPONSORS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors and sponsors whose support plays a vital role in empowering our students and enhancing our programs. Your commitment to investing in the future of our youth not only enriches their educational experiences but also fosters their personal and professional growth.

With your contributions, we are able to provide valuable resources, mentorship opportunities, and hands-on experiences that inspire our students to pursue their dreams and become engaged members of their communities. Together, we are making a meaningful impact on the lives of countless young individuals.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for your continued support. We look forward to partnering with you in the journey to empower the next generation of leaders!



**United Way of North
Central New Mexico**

*Serving Bernalillo, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Torrance,
and Valencia counties*



Sen. Bill Tallman



Sen. Harold Pope



Rep. William Rehm



Rep. Art De Le Cruz

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear JAG-NM Community,

I am proud to reflect on the progress we've made over the 2023-2024 school year. Our journey has been one of transition and growth, with each step reinforcing our commitment to empowering New Mexico's youth. This past year, we added four new school sites, launched our Employer Engagement Department, and celebrated the election of Alondra Aguilera as JAG National Career Association Secretary, a milestone for our students and our state.

This year has also marked a critical transition in leadership for JAG-NM, from the founding members who laid a strong foundation, to a new generation of leaders who are eager to carry the mission forward. I want to express my deepest gratitude to our Board of Directors, staff, students, and employer partners for their unwavering support.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the future. With a solid foundation and a passionate team, we are well-positioned to continue transforming lives, one student at a time. Your ongoing support and dedication will help us build on this momentum, ensuring every student can thrive in school, career, and life.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Sincerely,

Kaitly Parent

Executive Director, JAG-NM



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WHO WE ARE

What We Do?

JAG-NM transforms communities, one student at a time, by re-engaging academically vulnerable high school students and preparing them to reach their potential through graduation and beyond.

JAG-NM places a highly trained teacher (Specialist) in every JAG classroom, whose job is to create a customized student experience that encompasses academic, social, and emotional support and preparation for college, career, and life through our community-based network.

JAG-NM provides comprehensive training for specialists and students, hosts events at both state and national levels, and manages the JAG-NM Career Association. We also maintain a robust network of employer partners.

This comprehensive approach aims to strengthen partnerships and enhance our students' career readiness.



JAG-NM is an education-based, participant-centered nonprofit offering a continuum of support.

JAG partners with high schools to serve the most vulnerable high school students (grades 9-12) through graduation, and then one year of follow-up to support participants as they transition into post-secondary education and training pathways.

By partnering with public education and private businesses, JAG ensures these participants become thriving members of our nation's workforce.

MISSION & VISION

OUR MISSION



JAG-NM transforms communities, one student at a time, by re-engaging academically vulnerable high school students and preparing them to reach their potential through graduation and beyond.

OUR VISION



JAG-NM believes we should be the go-to solution among New Mexico educators and policymakers for closing the equity gaps in education, graduating students most at risk of dropping out, and preparing graduates to thrive in college, career and life.



POPULATIONS SERVED



270 Students Served

98% 2023-24 Graduation Rate



83.3% FT Employment Rate Of Graduating Seniors

15.6% Barriers To Graduation Removed



48% Native/Indigenous Students

49% Hispanic/Latino Students

27% Differently-Abled Students



12% Non Primary English Speaking Students



STUDENT EVENTS & MILESTONES

JAG-NM students showcased outstanding dedication and leadership throughout the year, excelling at both local and national events.

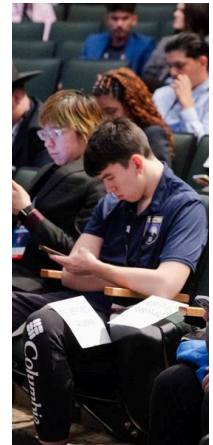
October 2023: State Student Leadership Conference

Students engaged in leadership, teamwork, and career development activities, connecting with peers, mentors, and industry leaders.



November 2023: National Student Leadership Academy (NSLA)

In Washington, D.C., students attended leadership workshops, participated in service activities, and represented the future of New Mexico's workforce.

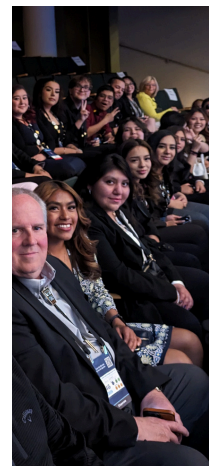


January 2024: JAG Day at the State Legislature

50 students met with Senator Bill Tallman and Lt. Gov. Howie Morales, advocating for youth policies and building civic leadership skills.

March 2024: New Mexico Career Development Conference (CDC)

Over 300 attendees, 15 employers, and 9 competitions helped students refine skills like public speaking, resume writing, and interview techniques.



April 2024: National Career Development Conference (NCDC)

JAG-NM's 39 participants earned major wins, including:

- 3 Outstanding Chapter Awards
- 5th Place in Career Preparation
- 8th Place in the LOVE Project
- Alondra Aguilera made history as New Mexico's first National Career Association Officer, serving as Secretary.

2023-2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

NEW SITES



The 2023-2024 School Year saw four new successful JAG sites throughout New Mexico: Alamo-Navajo Community Schools, Zuni High School, Carlsbad Career Enrichment Center, and Gallup-McKinley Career Opportunity Center.

NCDC



This year New Mexico sent 39 people in attendance to NCDC, the largest number in our history. We brought back 3 Outstanding Chapter wins, a 5th place win for Career Preparation, an 8th place win for the LOVE Project, and our first elected National Officer.

TRANSITION



This year marked a series of significant milestones for JAG-NM, including our first transition in Executive Directors and Program Managers. We also introduced a new Employer Engagement position, welcomed five new Specialists, and implemented a new database provided by JAG National. Additionally, we launched a new look to our website and enhanced our online presence, all while laying out a new strategic plan for the future.

THE 2023-2024 JAG-NM SPECIALIST TEAM

Our dedicated professionals committed to providing tailored support and guidance to empower students on their journey to success.



AMBER RENO
Cibola High School



CHRIS JARAMILLO
Rio Grande High School



DIXIE HOLLINGSWORTH
Zuni High School AND
Twin Buttes Academy



KRISTINE MOORE
Rio Grande High School



**MAEGAN
MADRID-OLVERA**
Gallup-McKinley
Opportunity Career Center



MICHAEL GARCIA
Del Norte High School



SONIA SOTO
Carlsbad Enrichment
Center



TIM GARRO
Alamo Navajo
Community School

THANK YOU!

THE JAG-NM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We would like to extend our gratitude to the board members who served during the 2023-2024 term. Thank you for your time and commitment to JAG-NM. Your participation in the board helped shape the direction of our organization.

ALARIE RAY-GARCIA

Board Chair

GLORIA RUIZ

Vice Chair

TONI BALZANO








Treasurer

JESSICA NOJEK
REBECCA REYES
JEANIE BACA
JOSH LUCIO
ANDREW MATHIS
CLEMY GARZA

CARLA KUGLER
LT. GOV. MORALES
JUSTIN REITER
KYLE TAPAHA
TIA SABAWI

MEET OUR 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are proud to introduce the current board members for the 2024-2025 term. This dedicated group brings a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to advancing the mission of JAG-NM. Several members served in the previous term, and their continued involvement reflects a strong dedication to our goals and initiatives. Together, this board is focused on fostering a supportive and collaborative environment to drive growth and success for our students and the community.

 <p>Board Chair Andrew Mathis Weichert Realty - Realtor JAG-NM Member as of 2023</p>	 <p>Board Vice Chair & Secretary Clemy Garza McDonald's - Franchise Owner JAG-NM Member as of 2020</p>	 <p>Board Treasurer Carla Kugler Associated Builders and Contractors of New Mexico - President & CEO JAG-NM Member as of 2020</p>	 <p>Director Lt. Gov Howie Morales State Of New Mexico Lieutenant Governor JAG-NM Member as of 2024</p>
 <p>Director Justin Reiter Vice President of Commercial Banking at Bank of Albuquerque JAG-NM Member as of 2020</p>	 <p>Director Kyle Tapaha Urban Indigenous Organizer Americans for Indian Opportunity JAG-NM Member as of 2023</p>	 <p>Director Tia Sabawi Vice President of Consumer Lending at Rio Grande Credit Union JAG-NM Member as of 2022</p>	

THE JAG-NM TEAM

Our passionate and experienced team devoted to equipping students with the skills, resources, and opportunities they need to achieve their fullest potential.



KAITY PARENT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kaity Parent is a dedicated leader with extensive experience in student advocacy and nonprofit management. She has successfully built student-led groups, expanding their impact and engagement across the state. Her work as a JAG Specialist led to a remarkable increase in higher education attendance rates among students. With a background in financial management and a commitment to helping students overcome barriers, Kaity continues to make a positive difference in her community. Now residing in Corrales, NM, she enjoys horseback riding, swimming, and geocaching in her free time.

Esther Vigil-Keeton, M.S. Ed., brings over 30 years of experience in public education, including 19 years as a high school administrator. As a military wife, she lived and worked in various locations, gaining valuable cultural insights. Her experience spans all grade levels and includes both general and special education. Throughout her career, Esther has focused on creating programs that foster belonging for all students. She continues to work closely with school district administrators and community members to help at-risk students develop the academic and soft skills needed for success in school and life.



ESTHER KEETON
PROGRAM MANAGER



CHRISTINE BATAN
EMPLOYER
ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Christine Batan is the Employer Engagement Manager at JAG-NM, bringing over four years of nonprofit experience with a focus on youth services. Her diverse career background spans journalism, publishing, and teaching art, where she has leveraged her degrees in Psychology and English Literature to advocate for vulnerable populations. Christine is passionate about ensuring that these communities, especially at-risk youth, receive the essential resources and trauma-informed care they need. As a first-generation immigrant, she understands the additional barriers that language and cultural differences can create, and she is committed to helping others navigate these challenges.

JAG-NM GOALS 2024-2025

As we look to the future, JAG-NM has ambitious goals for the upcoming year:



Development and Sustainability

- **Establishment of the First JAG-NM Career Association (NMCA):** Launch the NMCA to offer students a structured platform for career development, networking, and professional growth, ensuring sustainable opportunities for future members.



- **Employer Engagement Expansion:** Strengthen partnerships with local businesses and organizations to increase internship and job placement opportunities, connecting students with the workforce and building sustainable community relationships.



- **Strategic Outreach to Underrepresented Communities:** Prioritize outreach to vulnerable populations, making resources, support, and career pathways accessible to all students to sustain inclusive growth.

Premier Program Delivery

- **Community Service Engagement Initiatives:** Encourage NMCA-led student participation in service projects, emphasizing leadership skills and civic engagement to create meaningful community impact.
- **Leadership Development Programs:** Implement workshops and training sessions that equip students with essential leadership skills, preparing them for success in their careers and communities.
- **Increased Student Participation in Events:** Actively encourage student involvement in JAG-NM events, workshops, and activities to strengthen their skill sets, expand their networks, and enhance their sense of community.





“

BEING A PART OF JAG-NM HAS HAD A GREAT IMPACT ON ME BOTH PERSONALLY AND ACADEMICALLY. ONE OF THE BEST LESSONS I'VE LEARNED IS THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT GIVING UP AND SELF-BELIEF. BEING A PART OF JAG HAS INSPIRED ME TO PURSUE MY EDUCATION FURTHER AND HAS HELPED ME ENGAGE MORE WITH MY PEERS AND SCHOOL.

”

Israel Aguilera, senior & NMCA Chapter President,
Carlsbad Enrichment Center



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