JAG-SCCA Delegates Brainstorm Ideas to Prevent Other Students from ‘Dropping Out’

On Wednesday, August 3, 2011 student leaders in the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) program from across South Carolina met at Saluda Shoals Park for what would turn out to be a very informative discussion on ways to prevent other students from ‘dropping out’. Twenty-three students met at 9:30 in the morning to participate in leadership training provided by Saluda Shoals park rangers. After lunch, JAG SCCA Delegates received training on parliamentary procedure and then began to discuss the goals of the South Carolina Career Association.

The final discussion topic of the day was ‘dropout prevention’ and how JAG could play a bigger role in solving this issue. The room was filled with passion at this point because the students could directly relate with this issue. JAG SCCA Delegates agreed that there is not a “one solution” answer. Instead, they discussed ideas to address the major issues that were at the root of the problem.

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The JAG Career Association chapter of Chesnee does many different community service activities for the people in our town. My favorite one out of them would be mobile meals. I have to admit that when I first heard about it, the idea of having to go around and deliver food to the elderly wasn’t sounding all that great. I still went along with it and I was glad I did, because as we got around from house to house, I and my JAG group got to meet many different people and was able to get the chance to get to know some of them on a deeper level. Some of these people in our community were happy to get to see us as we did our usual routine once a week and in return it brought quite a sense of joy to some of us as well. Not only did it allow us to help those in our community it also benefited us because we got the chance to work on our social skills with other people and feeling more open to starting a conversation. Looking back, I see that mobile meals is a service that is well respected and well worth the time. I am glad that JAG students at Chesnee High School have decided to carry on this tradition for another year.

Robert Kane
State Delegate
Chesnee High School

The Importance of Education...

In my opinion, education is the key to success. It is important because it fills your brain with a lot of knowledge that when used positively and productively, will benefit our society.

Having an education not only benefits yourself but others as well. Education is needed to train others and teach them valuable skills for the workplace. Education is an opportunity and a freedom that you do not want to waste, because if you do not take advantage, then you will create a path of failure. This is evident in communities all over the world. In the world today many countries should use new ideas from educated professionals, such as a JAG Specialist, to help improve the education of our workforce and the dropout rate.

Life without education will be so confusing because people will not know what is right and what is wrong or how to be a productive member of society. The key to everything is your education, because it fills your brain with lots of resources that you can use to better yourself and your community. Another concern for education is the dropout rate, just by one person graduating from high school and receiving a diploma, he or she will make a big difference in the world. The best education includes graduating from college and becoming what you want to be. Having an education will make you proud of yourself and will help you to get another step closer to success. Education is not made to be wasted, however, to be consumed and used positively.

Education is like a dream just waiting to come true. It is up to you to decide how much education you are going to earn. The choice of getting a good education and being successful is yours. The importance of education is that it is the main key that open doors to the future, so open the door to your future. This is why education is important and how it can benefit you today and our world tomorrow.

Written by: Sayquon Bannister,
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Those issues included pregnancy, parental involvement, drug use and lack of knowledge by their peers about the importance of a good education. One idea that was liked by all SCCA Delegates included a dropout prevention awareness assembly. The assembly would promote graduation and bring awareness to the issue. JAG Delegates stated that this could be done by JAG or promoted by JAG. They mentioned seeking help from churches or local civic groups. JAG Delegates mentioned several ideas for the assembly which included motivational guest speakers, visual displays, student speeches, skits and more. JAG student leaders also expressed a need for middle school students to hear an assembly like this. Students will continue to meet throughout the year to plan and implement the goals of the JAG-South Carolina Career Association.
During, the new 2011-2012 academic school year at C. A. Johnson High School, the Jobs for America’s Graduates Program has once again come together for another year of leadership, teamwork and community service projects.

Thus far, Jobs for Johnson’s Graduates Program (JJG) has completed many school and community based services such as selling ice cream during lunch, participating in the James R. Clark 6th Annual Sickle Cell Walk, participating in the community Night Out and attending the Tom Joyner Kiss 103.1 Back to School Bash.

JJG students, Shaniqua Lee and Kiana Warner, explained the many tasks they had to fulfill at the Back to School Bash. They were delighted to be volunteering as they helped with the children activities, passing out of school supplies and escorting the Palmetto Health mascot.

Many of the JJG students commented on their roles at other activities they have attended and their benefits. They believed that the ice cream sale that takes place at school and the community service projects have been successful because each event has aided them in promoting the Jobs for Johnson’s Graduates Program to the general public. It is a great opportunity for the public to see how the JJG program and the community are making connections. These connections may lead to employment or internships for the JJG students.

Thus, students at C. A. Johnson are participating in several Junior Achievement Programs. The JAG Program fosters work-readiness, entrepreneurship, financial literacy skills, and use experimental learning to inspire us to reach our full potential. JJG member, Jose Trejo, was enthusiastic about sharing his outlook on the JAG program by saying “I enjoy it because it teaches me how to run a business and make money”

- Michael Ashford
  State Delegate
  CA Johnson High School
Basic Job Tips
By: Brandi Cox, Swansea High School

- Be confident
- Look for a job that suits your interest
- Dress like you want the job
- Use correct grammar and NO SLANG
- Be very polite to everyone you meet at an interview

- Have Enthusiasm and be energetic
- Have copies of your resume and references
- Prepare for your interview by practicing
- Be 10-15 minutes early to your interview
Jobs for America's Graduates—South Carolina

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Jobs for America’s Graduates, founded in 1980, has served approximately 750,000 participants in JAG Model Programs in more than 32 states and 800 programs conducted in Middle Schools, High Schools, Community Colleges, and Community-Based Organizations. For over three decades, JAG Model Programs have achieved extraordinary outcomes, including: kept at-risk youth in middle school and high school through graduation; assisted JAG graduates in securing an entry level job leading to career advancement opportunities; encouraged and helped JAG graduates pursue a postsecondary education; and provided program participants with competency-based classroom experiences, recognition and leadership opportunities in the motivational JAG student organization, work-based learning experiences prior to and for 12 months following graduation from high school; and a network of relationships that will enhance the outcomes of JAG, a confidence-building and motivating national student organization with service-learning activities and numerous opportunities for recognition, active local chapters, and assistance in becoming more than when participants were interviewed and selected for a JAG Model program. The purpose of JAG has always been to “make a difference” in the personal, professional, and career life of program participants.

Columbia, SC … Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG-SC) has been chosen as one of the Youth Service America’s (YSA) Lead Agencies to serve in the planning and organization of the 24th Annual Global Youth Service Day—the largest service event in the world and the only one that is dedicated to mobilizing and celebrating youth volunteers.

Through a competitive application process, JAG-SC was chosen to be one of 100 Lead Agencies from across the United States and Canada.

As a Lead Agency, JAG-SC will receive a $2,000 planning grant, travel to the Youth Service Institute (YSI) and receive ongoing training and technical assistance throughout the year.

The South Carolina Career Association (SCCA) Advisor and this year’s JAG-SC President (elected by their high school peers) will attend the YSI October 24-26 in Philadelphia where they will come together with others to share best practices, great ideas and to learn how to implement high quality service projects that achieve significant impact on youth and community outcomes through youth engagement.

JAG-SC, coordinated by the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), is a dropout prevention program focused on helping at-risk students achieve academic success, graduate from high school and improve career readiness.

“Being selected as a Youth Service America Lead Agency is a huge deal in the youth serving world. The project will expose all of our youth participants to linked community service outcomes, training and leadership opportunities,” said Elaine Midkiff, state coordinator of the JAG-SC program for DEW.

JAG-SC’s student-led Career Association, under the direction of our SCCA Advisor, will select and execute multiple service learning projects across the state over the coming months in anticipation for Global Youth Service Day. The culminating celebration to recognize their achievements will take place on April 20th in conjunction with the annual Career Development.