

JAGWI Newsletter

Jobs for America's Graduates Wisconsin at Prairie Phoenix Academy in Sun Prairie

Happy Holiday's From JAGWI Students!

Happy Holidays from all of the JAGWI students at Prairie Phoenix Academy! So far in JAGWI, we have learned job skills that will help us in the near future. Resume writing, cover letters, business etiquette, career development, interview skills, and mock interviews, are a few of the things we are working on this year!

We have explored many field trips like American Family Insurance and Reality Rocks At Sun Prairie High School.

We have heard some great guest speakers from Herzing University and Globe University. Bob Bowers came in to speak to us about AIDS Prevention. We learned that he has AIDS and he didn't look sick. We also learned all about preventing the spread of it. Bill Crawley from Crawley Automotive brought in old and new car parts. We were amazed at the differences in sizes. Bill was really nice and encouraged us

to get a college education, because everything in the future, including the automotive industry will require an education of some sort, especially with all of the digital technology.

We are working on a community food drive for the Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry at The Sunshine Place so that people in need will find full shelves.

We look forward to more JAGWI activities in 2011. Plan on joining us!

Sincerely,
Antwon,
Kuweis,
Chris,
Kevin,
and
Josh



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Sandy Sobek Leslie
JAGWI Regional Director
1402 Pankratz St Madison, WI 53704
608.268.2262 / www.fsc-corp.org

Forward Service Corporation Welcomes New JAGWI Career Specialist!



My name is Lizz Reynolds and I'm pleased to be the new JAGWI Career Specialist at Prairie Phoenix Academy. I've been teaching in alternative schools for the past four years. I love the fact that alternative schools allow lots of room for creativity in regards to teaching methods. JAGWI is a very special program that allows me to be a part of students' lives on so many levels. Not only am I a teacher to these kids, I am also a leader, confidante, advocate, event planner, and a person who allows students to be themselves. I love being able to prepare students for their futures, in a practical sense. I also value my position as the JAGWI Career Specialist because I help students build confidence in their abilities, and help them see that every person can be successful. I look forward to 2011, and am excited to facilitate the many events planned and executed by JAG students!

JAGWI Career Association Induction Ceremony



My name is Zac and I am the President of the JAGWI Career Association. The Career Association is a student-led organization through JAG for students attending Prairie Phoenix Academy. We participate in activities to help us develop career and leadership skills through civic, social, and fundraising events. The Career Association meets once a week to plan projects. We are working on a food pantry food drive; holiday

caroling at a local nursing home; reading buddies for Sun Prairie elementary students; and a baby shower for Career Association member, Celeste. We are also planning a bake sale and a t-shirt design contest and sale to raise money for JAG student activities. My fellow Career Association leaders were nominated by other JAG students and I present to you, Victoria, Vice President; Amber, Secretary; Paris and Celeste, Public Speakers; and Alec, Artistic Director. The JAGWI Career Association Induction Ceremony was held on November 16, 2010 at Prairie Phoenix Academy.

30th Anniversary JAG National Student Poetry Competition

“We were pleased with the number of poets that participated in the 30th Anniversary JAG National Poetry Competition,” said Karen Koeninger, JAG National special events vice president, “as well as the ability to express their feelings about the long-lasting benefits of participating in a JAG program.” Jobs for America’s Graduates Wisconsin student, Evan, submitted, The JAG Rap: You see, I would really say, “I pledge allegiance to the flag” Or yet, “Pledge allegiance to the swag.” But today I’m saying, “Pledge allegiance to

the JAG.” I’m sitting in class trying to play my role, ‘cause I believe I have the right to establish high personal goals, so I don’t spend my life digging all these holes. I believe my success is earned through my effort at school, so I don’t sit on these streets acting like a fool. Look, fitted cap on, J’s strapped on, It’s 11:55, but everybody is gone, all going to their house to screw around, but not me, today. I’m taking education and throwing it in the bag, ‘cause I’m gonna stay in JAG.

JAGWI Student Wins 2nd-Place In The AGCareers.com Essay Contest

JAG National teams up with AGCareers.com on a 500-word “what agriculture means to me” essay contest. Over 30 essays came from ten states. One JAGWI student that entered the contest took 2nd place! Here is her essay:

Who Would Have Thought? Cow Poop Rocks! By: Abbey B.

I work at a small farm in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, and I absolutely love my job! Before I started working on the farm I couldn't even imagine working on a farm; I thought that it was just pure gross and disgusting, and I also thought it was easy work. I used to be the type of girl who would much rather wear high heels than work boots, and I would never EVER touch cow manure, let alone a cow's utter! When I saw the ad on Craig's List for the farm job, I was like “yea right,” but as I continued to scroll down the list of available jobs, I started to realize that all of the jobs were for college graduates, and I'm still in high school. So I gave up for the night. While I was laying in bed, the thought of working on a farm just lingered, then I remembered what someone once told me: challenging yourself is what makes a person successful in life. The next morning I called the farmer. I was very hesitant to call because I didn't even know the first thing about farming, but then I was relieved when they didn't answer and I hung up. A few minutes later I decided it would be good to leave a message, so I called back and left a message. A couple days passed and they still hadn't called me back. I eventually got a hold of Jane, the farmer's wife, and she said to come down and check the place out. My first thought about the farm was, *god does it smell*. I talked to the farmer and he said he wanted to talk to my parents, so they came down there to meet him the next day. He said he would call me when he wanted to try me out. The very next day I got the call, and at 5:30 PM I headed out to the farm. He said he immediately liked me because I walked in with a level of confidence that not many 16 year old people have. He gave me a trial run, and I worked out well so I got the job! Now that I got the job I'm working almost full time. I also have a second job at a Movie Theatre, but that job isn't anything compared to my farm job because there is absolutely no challenge to it. My perception of farming is a lot different than what it was before I started the job. Now I know that it is really hard work. I realize that I just love working with the cows because it's different than working with people. People sometimes get angry with you and you can't always show them who's boss; cows on the other hand, can be given a slap on the hip, and they usually listen. Now I respect farming, and I'm definitely not afraid of cow manure and cow utters! I would recommend working on a farm to people of all ages and learning levels; working with the animals is a very good learning experience. Farming would be an amazing experience for anyone!

Mock Interviews

After months of building résumés, writing cover letters, and developing interview skills, JAGWI Mock Interviews were held on November 4. Thank you to our guest interviewers Mark Greenleaf, Burracho's; Gerald Lewis, Volunteer helping out with JAGWI Speakers Bureau; Karen Bailey, BEP Member; Tony Rodriguez, Mad City Ads; Sandy Sobek Leslie, Forward Service Corporation; and Ray Cox, Prairie Phoenix Academy, who tested students interview skill levels with typical interview questions and offered feedback to students on their resumes, responses, attire, handshake, and eye contact. Many students came in the next day with confidence, having picked up actual job applications and wanted help filling them out.



The JAGWI Midday News

JAGWI Students created a three-minute video about JAGWI & the Career Association which they entered in the Wisconsin Association of School Boards student video contest and the If I Had A Trillion Dollars video contest

Amber: I'm Amber and this is my co-host Vicki. And we welcome you to the JAGWI Midday News!

Vicki: Hello Amber and Hello to all of you. Today's Top Story ~ Trillion Dollar Student Ideas on How and What Public Education Can Do To Stay Current and Prepare Students for Future Careers and Education Opportunities.

Amber: Joining us to share their view are Jobs for America's Graduates Wisconsin Career Association President, Zac, and Public Speaking Coordinator, Celeste.

Zac: Thank you Amber and Vicki.

Celeste: Thank you, It's great to be here.

Zac: Did You Know That the National High School Graduation Rate is Approximately 70%?! In 2009, JAGWI Boasted A 100% Graduation Rate at Prairie Phoenix Academy in Sun Prairie. The JAGWI Career Association allows a group of students to be leaders in the school and get JAGWI students and others to take an active role and participate in career and education opportunities. Activities develop career and leadership skills, allow students to give back through community service, and to participate in civic, social, and fundraising events.

Celeste: A Few of the activities and events that the JAGWI Career Association will tackle this year include coordinating the Career Association Induction Ceremony, where JAGWI leaders are recognized and explain to other JAG students what the activities plan is for the year. We will also be implementing a career fair, a food pantry drive, the JAGWI 5K Run, and a t-shirt sales fundraiser.

Vicki: Thank you, Zac and Celeste for that compelling report.

Amber: Well Vicki, the JAGWI Career Association student leaders sound like they have a trillion dollar plan to prepare other students for future careers and education opportunities.

Vicki: This Just In ~ The average annual income for high school dropouts is only \$17,299. The average annual income for high school graduates is \$26,933. And the average annual income for college graduates with a two-year, associate degree is \$36,645. Back to you, Amber.

Amber: Thank you Vicki. Thank you all for tuning into the JAGWI Mid-day News. That's all the time we have today, but catch-up with us next time as we discuss the national economic impact of education, the benefits of investing in a good education for all of America's students, and a nation without dropouts.

American Family Insurance Company Field Trip

In October, 15 JAGWI students took a career opportunity field trip to American Family Insurance. JAGWI students were greeted by Scott Wilde, Sourcing & Diversity Specialist, and Dan Kelly, Vice President of Human Resources. Dan gave the kids a hearty welcome and then the students went around the room and introduced themselves. Students told the group what they wanted to do after graduation and Scott took their career aspirations and translated them into jobs they could do at American Family Insurance. They watched a short promotional DVD showing storms, storm damage, employees. At the end of Scott's presentation comments: Kevin said, "I thought insurance was behind desks selling insurance, but after this I am jobs someone could do here." Bobby, interested in believe American Family Insurance had a company jet and that people right there cared for it. After a tour of the facility by Kristi Fehrman, the students were given gift bags, shook Scott's hand and thanked him, and returned to school just in time for 12:30pm class!



and the faces of students had the following stuffy people sitting amazed at all the different diesel mechanics, couldn't

Forward Service Corporation (FSC) was formed in 1979 as a private, 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, and is the statewide affiliate for the Jobs for America's Graduates Wisconsin (JAGWI). Serving those students with barriers to success and providing education, employment opportunities, careers and leadership development, awareness of a variety of postsecondary education opportunities, and support services, FSC and JAGWI spark a transformation in the lives of students participating in the program.



Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a national school-to-career program implemented in 700 high schools, alternative schools, community colleges, and middle schools across the U.S. **In Wisconsin, the JAGWI program is implemented in Sun Prairie, at Prairie Phoenix Academy, and serves fifty 2011 high school students and 2010 graduates, ages 15-19.** JAG's mission is to keep young people in school through graduation and provide work-based learning experiences that will lead to placement and retention in postsecondary education or advanced training, military service, full-time employment, or trained apprenticeships.

JAGWI Student Commentary

JAGWI Food Pantry Food Drive

“It feels really good to be able to help other people by bringing in food for the holiday season; it motivates me to plan other projects, like a toy drive for kids who don't have things to play with.”
~ Victoria

“The food drive made me think of other ways to help people. I want to raise money to make blankets for people without homes and for children who are sick and in the hospital.” ~ Amber

“We are making the food drive more motivating for students at the PPA! We decided to throw in funds for a pizza party for the advisory that comes up with the most cans!”
~ Zac

Holiday Plans

“I'm looking forward to hanging out at home with my family.” ~ Jim

“I love the holidays because my birthday is on the 31st of December!” ~ Darius

“There is something really cool about the time between one year ending and another one beginning.” ~ Carter

“I'm looking forward to going to Indiana to visit my cousin who got back from California!” ~ Amber

“Celebrating Isabelle's first Christmas!” ~ Celeste

Thank You To JAGWI Donors!

Forward Service Corporation
The Gordon Flesch Company
The Capital Times Kids Fund
Sun Prairie Optimist Club
Sun Prairie Business Education Partnership
Prairie Phoenix Academy
Theda Clarke Smith Family Foundation
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