



JOB FOR MONTANA'S GRADUATES

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JMG News

EDUCATION FOR LIFE!

MARCH 2012

Drea Brown Retiring From Jobs for Montana's Graduates

Read Drea's message below to those involved in JMG

It is with joy and regret that I have decided to retire after the CDC this year. I have never enjoyed a job as much as I have enjoyed my time with JMG; it is a program that makes me feel that I am contributing to the good of the world. I get to see the positive outcomes of my work on a daily basis. I enjoy talking to people and spreading the word about JMG. I love working with the Specialists, the students and all the people that help make JMG successful.

My favorite saying regarding JMG is "We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations." I always picture the JMG Specialist looking at the JMG class and seeing those students who are not thought of as loveable, promising, or worthy of time and caring. But... the Specialist can see the promise in these students and knows that they can be successful with guidance and love. Specialists are the mentors who encourage the students in their career and life decisions, listen to them, and have high expectations of them. The Career Specialists make JMG successful and I am proud to have helped them along the way.

Thank you to all who have been involved with JMG for your friendship, your commitment to JMG, and your part in making JMG available to the students! Since I started to work for the program in 1999, JMG has grown and accomplished many things. Without your help, it would not have been possible.

I look upon retirement as a time to enjoy all the things that I never had the time to do when I was working. I started a list of things I wanted to accomplish during my lifetime; the list is so long now that I need to get started on it! I will be exercising more, golfing, starting my hiking/biking groups, having fun with my 6 grandkids, enjoying the sun, traveling, and developing my creative side. I will miss all of you, but I know this is a good time for me to make changes. I don't look at retirement as an ending of a career but rather as an opportunity to contribute to the world in a different way.

Thank you for the good job you do and I challenge you to continue your amazing work with JMG!

Future "ForGED" - Changes Coming for GED

Although the main focus of JMG is to see that our students obtain the competencies that will provide the necessary skills for future employment **AND** graduate from high school, some students might not earn a degree. Obtaining a GED has been another option for these students and can be an encouraging sign for success down the road! If completed during the senior follow-up period, it will also turn a negative outcome in the database to a positive one.

It is important to note that changes are taking place which will affect students who plan to take the GED. In the past, students could take certain sections of the test over if they failed; the new testing procedure requires that the entire test be taken over. Additionally, the cost will increase threefold from \$35-\$50 to \$200 by the end of next year. Therefore, if you have past students who are planning to take the GED, now is the time to do it!

If you would like more information regarding the ForGED Initiative please call Connie Kinsey at 406-444-4571 or visit the website at <http://www.montanagednow.mt.gov>.

JMG CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

MAY 1-2, 2012

BILLINGS CONVENTION CENTER – BILLINGS, MT

Registration materials will be sent in early March.

Competitive Event Judges: Know someone who would be interested in judging a competitive event? If so, email us their contact info!

DUE MARCH 30th
 *Registration forms
 *Competitive event entries
 *Scholarship applications

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN BILLINGS!

SAVE THE DATE: FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

10/30/2012

The 2012 Fall Leadership Conference will be held in Helena at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel on Tuesday, October 30, 2012. Plan to be there next school year!

Spring monitoring visits are coming in late March. Program managers will be sending out their schedules shortly; please try to accommodate them as we want to give each school the time it deserves. See you out on the road!

You Could Attend JAG NTS in Orlando, July 2012!

What: JAG National Training Seminar (NTS)
When: July 9-13 2012
Where: Orlando, FL

Each year Jobs for America's Graduates organizes a training seminar aimed at those working in JAG organizations. The seminar lasts a week and includes in-depth education on a JAG program area (specialist training for high school, middle school, or alternative school), and multiple workshops on various JAG programs, activities, legislation, database, etc. It is a great opportunity to learn new teaching strategies and meet other specialists from across the country who are also teaching JAG competencies! **Thanks to money allocated by the State Workforce Investment Board, we will once again be able to fund this seminar for some career specialists including airfare, hotel, and all seminar costs.**

If you are interested in attending, send an email to Drea Brown at dbrown@mt.gov. We are happy to be able to offer this opportunity and can't wait to send specialists to Florida!

DATE REMINDERS:

- **March 23:** Submit photos/articles for May newsletter
- **March 30:** Deadline to submit
 - CDC registration
 - JMG scholarship applications
- **May 1-2:** Career Development Conference in Billings, MT
- **May 18:** eNDMS database entry
 - 2011 Senior follow-up
 - 2011 8th grade follow-up
 - Model Services
 - School/Job placement
 - 2012 Graduation dates
 - 2012 End of year status
- **July 9-13:** JAG NTS in Orlando, FL
- **Late Summer 2012:** JMG Specialist Training

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JMG Winter Training 2012 – Hard at Work!

