



JOBS FOR MONTANA'S GRADUATES

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JMG News

NOVEMBER 2012

EDUCATION FOR LIFE!

Welcome JMG's New State Director, Erica Swanson

Hello everyone! My name is Erica Swanson and I am excited to begin this adventure as the new State Director for Jobs for Montana's Graduates on such a wonderful and energized team. I am looking forward to the opportunities to work with a variety of schools, teachers, students, community leaders, and other state employees to learn and share ideas of ways to encourage young people. Each school, teacher and community are unique, but share in the same common goals for students to expand knowledge, gain self-esteem, and prepare them to meet real world challenges through setting goals and working through them to be successful.

A little bit about myself: I was born and raised in Montana. I graduated high school in Dillon and then left to see the world! Life brought me back and I graduated from the University of Montana Western with a teaching degree. While finishing my degree I worked at the Montana Youth Challenge Academy as a drill instructor and then as a counselor. For the past eight years I have been working in early intervention for young children with delays and/or disabilities at the Department of Health and Human Services. I have three children; two daughters age seventeen and twelve and a son who is seven. My favorite thing to do for myself is run!

I look forward to building off the strong foundation that JMG has and working collaboratively with all of you to shape the future!



Above: Erica Swanson, JMG State Director

JMG FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: PUZZLE SOLVED!

Thank you to those who attended the JMG Fall Leadership Conference in Helena on October 30, 2012. The day began with a leadership workshop led by Ted Wiese called "Solving the Leadership Puzzle." Leadership ideas, teambuilding games, and great messages were taken away from the session. The morning was followed by a buffet lunch and an awards presentation of the school "5 of 5" awards and the student winners of the JMG fall competitive events. The competitive event winners were:

JMG Logo: 1st Place: Sidney High School; 2nd Place: Roberts High School; 3rd Place: Cascade High School

JAG National Leadership Conference (winners of all-expense paid trip to Washington DC): Garrett Horton, Plains High School; Jonathan Mahoney, Project for Alternative Learning; Kimberly Rasmussen, Scobey High School; and Kaci Wenger, Butte High School.

Look for a more detailed article and pictures about the conference, student winners, and trip to Washington DC in the upcoming JMG student newsletter coming out in December!

JMG Pilot Curriculum Update

Thank you to all the High School Specialists who have taken the time to give us feedback regarding the lessons in the updated JMG curriculum! We have received over 85 responses to the curriculum survey. Close to 50% of the survey responses reviewed lessons in the "E" competencies (Leadership and Self-Development) which is exactly what students should be working on early in the year. "F" competencies (Personal Skills) and "A" competencies (Career Development) came next followed by "D," "C," and "B" (Basic Competencies, Job Survival, and Job Attainment).

Out of the completed surveys, 93.2% were positive! From the few responses where the lesson wasn't adequate, we received great feedback on how to improve the lesson. We will continue to send out reminders to fill out the survey throughout the year so that we can continue to make the curriculum better, and we truly appreciate your time in giving us this feedback as it will result in a product that is great for everyone!

● Congratulations! The first quarter winner drawn from the Curriculum Survey entries is:

● **HAILEY SELCH,**
● **CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL**

● A \$25 gift certificate to the store of your choice is yours! We will hold 2 more drawings this year, so get your survey entries in; the more you respond, the more chances to win!

Montana's Minimum Wage Will Increase in January

Montana's minimum wage increased last January from \$7.35 per hour to \$7.65 per hour and will increase again to \$7.80 per hour beginning on January 1, 2013. Initiative 151, passed by Montana voters in 2006, raises the state's minimum wage to be the greater of either the current state or federal minimum wage and also adds an annual cost-of-living adjustment. This cost-of-living adjustment is based on the increase in the U.S. City Average Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for All Items (CPI) and is rounded to the nearest five cents. The CPI increased by 1.7%, adding 15 cents to the current minimum wage.

This means that any student you are doing follow-ups for who is making minimum wage in Montana will need a wage adjustment on their job placement when you perform your January follow-up. You will enter this information in their job placement by going to the wage section, entering the new wage (\$7.80) and the date it changed (1/1/2013). This will insure we have the correct and most current information. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

PROGRAM REMINDERS

FOR NOVEMBER:

- **Middle School: Students work on civic project**
- **High School: Working on Program of Work**

FOR DECEMBER:

- **Middle School: Complete civic project, start planning Project Adventure**
- **High School: Continue Program of Work**
- **December Newsletter: Deadline for submitting photos and articles is **Monday, December 3****

DATA REMINDERS

Database Due Date: Friday, NOVEMBER 23

- **eNDMS database entry:**
 - **Senior follow ups – include job and school placement**
 - **8th grader follow-ups – transition to high school**

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