



# JAG|NE

**JOBS for AMERICA'S GRADUATES NEBRASKA**  
In Association with United Way of the Midlands

## WHAT WE DO

We believe all young people are capable of greatness. We also believe that greatness is seldom achieved alone. That's why JAG Nebraska is committed to providing in-school support for students. By helping them develop their skillsets and overcome hurdles, we set them up for success in the classroom and the workplace.

## WHY WE DO IT

A physical or mental health diagnosis. A difficult situation at home. A lack of transportation or internet access. We know thousands of students are facing these challenges – and more – making it harder for them to succeed in a traditional classroom.

To help these students achieve a bright future, JAG Nebraska utilizes a programming model developed by the national Jobs for America's Graduates organization. This model has been implemented by affiliates in 40 states across the nation, and research proves it results in big wins for students, employers and communities.

- JAG graduates are 2.3 times more likely to be employed full-time.
- JAG students are projected to produce over \$5,000,000 in increased earnings and spending annually.
- JAG graduates are projected to increase state and local tax revenue by over \$200,000 by the midpoint of their careers and increase home sales on a national level by \$16,000,000.

## HOW IT WORKS

JAG programming is conducted on-site at schools during school hours. Trained Career Specialists work with JAG students to help them master 37 skills that will set them up for success in their future careers.

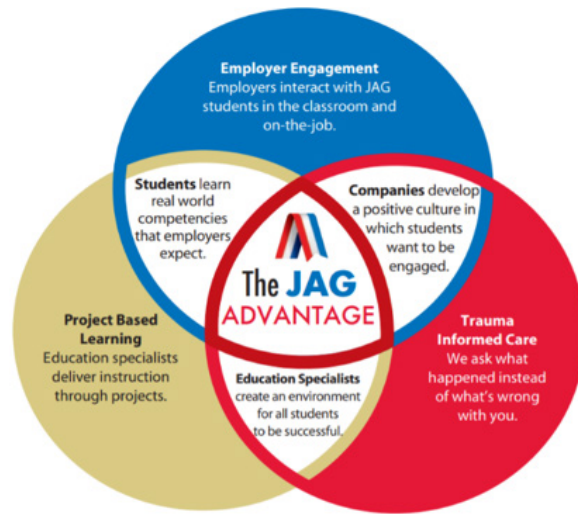
Throughout the duration of the program, students build relationships with local employers; engage in project-based learning; develop leadership, civic and social responsibility through a student-led career association; and engage in career research that will lay the foundation for job opportunities after high school graduation.

**JAGNEBRASKA.ORG**

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# THE JAG ADVANTAGE

JAG programming follows the JAG Model, which incorporates three key components proven to ensure students' development and success.



## Employer Engagement

Employers interact with JAG students in the classroom – and on the job. As part of the JAG programming, company representatives are invited into the classroom, where they build relationships with the students and teach them valuable skills that companies are seeking in new hires. Students will then be able to visit the representative's company, and potentially, visualize themselves working there.

## Trauma Informed Care

Career Specialists are trained to provide trauma-informed care and create an environment where all students are able to be successful. To be trauma-informed is to understand the challenges our students face and provide supports and additional resources so that they can overcome those barriers. It's the difference between asking "what happened?" instead of "what's wrong with you?"

## Project Based Learning (PBL)

This framework and instructional learning strategy provides students with a voice and the choice to drive what they do through hands-on projects. These projects help them develop real world competencies that employers are seeking. The projects also give the students the opportunity to use their skills and talents to showcase what they know through public products that are relevant to their interests and aptitudes.

# HOW JAG NEBRASKA GOT ITS START

The JAG program was created in 1979 as a bipartisan public and private partnership and focused on giving all students the opportunity to succeed. Now, JAG has affiliates in 40 states across the nation. In early 2018, the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) began to lay the foundation for the implementation of the JAG program here in Nebraska. With grant and state agency funding, NDOL then launched JAG programs in Columbus, Fremont and Omaha Nation in January 2019. iJAG, the JAG program in Iowa, helped manage and monitor the program during its initial implementation.

In 2020, United Way of the Midlands (UWM) stepped up to lead the program. JAG aligned with UWM's work to provide basic needs, education and financial stability supports to local individuals and families. UWM partnered with NDOL to officially brand and launch JAG Nebraska in July 2020. Now, JAG Nebraska operates programs at ten different sites, with plans to add two additional programs.

# SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

If you're interested in sponsoring a JAG Nebraska school or would like to bring the JAG Nebraska program to a school near you, please reach out to us at [info@JAGNebraska.org](mailto:info@JAGNebraska.org) to learn more.