



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

Contact Casey Kyler-West, Communications Director

TELEPHONE: (406)444-1520

FAX: (406)444-1394

E-mail: [ckylerwest@mt.gov](mailto:ckylerwest@mt.gov)

P.O. BOX 1728

HELENA, MT

59624-1728

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**For Immediate Release:**

**Jobs for Montana's Graduates Program Nationally Recognized for Sixth Year in a Row**

(Helena, MT) With a graduation rate of 97.6% it's no surprise the Department of Labor and Industry's Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG) program was nationally recognized with the "5 for 5" award for the sixth year in a row. "The continued success of the JMG program is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of both the students and the career specialists. The transition from school into the workforce can be difficult for some, but JMG changes that," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly.

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), has established five performance outcomes for students enrolled in JMG. The standards include graduation rate, positive outcomes of transitioning to work, post secondary education, military, and full-time job placements. "We are honored to receive this award. Our goal at JMG is to help students secure a good job or post-secondary education that will lead to a meaningful career once they graduate high school," said State Director Drea Brown.

The JMG program is also a big success on Montana's Reservations. The graduation rate for Indian students is 92% with a 70% positive outcome after 1 year. These students typically enter the program with 5 barriers to success including: excessive absences, inadequate or no work experience, residing in economically disadvantaged conditions, low academic performance and lacking marketable occupational skills.

Students are selected for the program due to barriers they may have to completing high school and entering the workforce. In school year 2009-2010, JMG supported a network of 49 programs offering 1079 students the potential for future career development by focusing on staying in school and finding a career path suited to their interests and abilities. JMG also has a middle school program which focuses on getting students to successfully transition into high school with a start on the development of their career plans.

To learn more about the Jobs for Montana Graduates program contact Drea Brown (406) 444-0978.

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