

# iJAG AT-A-GLANCE

## OUR WORK

iJAG serves students through partnerships with schools, employers, community organizations, and legislative groups to create successful, synergistic impacts on Iowa's young people, workforce and economy.

iJAG's innovative and evolving curriculum integrates the JAG program model with learner-centered strategies to deliver solutions that are evidence-based and results-driven. Instruction is paired with civic involvement, employer services, leadership opportunities plus local and statewide events that help students develop soft skills and professional readiness.

The annual iJAG **Leadership Development Conference (LDC)** includes student leaders that are hand-selected to participate in breakout sessions, workshops and hands-on training. Activities strengthen support for the iJAG kid and equip students to make an impact on their peers, in their schools and within their communities.

**Legislative Days** are held frequently throughout the year so Iowa legislators can hear directly from iJAG students about how programming and curriculum impacts their lives and plans for the future. Over **200** students met with legislators, where they engaged in the civic process of lifting their voices in support of iJAG.



The **Career Development Conference (CDC)** is a year-end celebration for all iJAG programs to network, attend employer-led workshops, participate in a career fair plus compete in competition categories. Competitions challenge students in areas related to decision-making, financial literacy, public speaking, business plan writing and more. In 2023, iJAG hosted more than **600** students to mark this as the largest iJAG event in history.



The **National Career Development Conference (NCDC)** features top student competitors from **39** state JAG programs. In 2023, **21** Iowa students attended as state competitors or representatives of our State Career Association. iJAG earned **third-place nationally** in the Lift Our Voices for Equality Project competition while Iowa students Kira Canada and Charlie Garcia were honored for their service on the National Career Association (NCA) leadership team. Kira was officially inducted as President of the NCA for the next term.

iJAG introduced four new **Student Career Association (SCA)** officers at this year's CDC in support of its ongoing mission to elevate student voices, create advocacy and leadership opportunities and promote our programs statewide.



## OUR IMPACT



7,200  
STUDENTS



151  
PROGRAMS



66  
COMMUNITIES



45  
COUNTIES



1,000  
'23 GRADS

98%

'23 GRADUATION RATE  
compared to 90%  
state grad rate

Overcoming  
Academic  
Challenges

Breaking  
Down  
Employment  
Barriers

Building  
Resilience &  
Rising Above  
Poverty

Earning  
Life Changing  
Jobs

## BUILDING THE FUTURE

This spring iJAG launched its first year-long fundraising initiative for individual donors called **For the Future!** Since April, iJAG has raised \$80,000 in support of this goal. Laurie Phelan, our founder, is the honorary chair for this initiative.



Furthermore, iJAG has a unique private-sector fundraising strategy that raises over 2 million dollars through business donors and community grants. Our strategy is to increase to 3.5 million dollars this year to work towards a 50/50 cost share of private and public dollars. This initiative will continue to allow iJAG to innovate programming to address evolving needs, wants, and barriers of its students - all while remaining learner-centered and JAG-aligned.

## OUR DRIVE TO JOBS

### Graduation

- Strategies
  - Adult mentoring
  - Academic remediation
  - Tailored guidance using learner-based strategies and trauma-informed care
- Outcomes
  - Increased understanding of self and purpose
  - Increased attendance rates
  - Improved feelings of inclusion and belonging

### Postsecondary Transition

- Strategies
  - Postsecondary exploration and visits
  - Job placement services
  - Vocational training
  - Military exploration
  - College and financial aid application support
- Outcomes
  - Improved academic performance
  - Increased preparedness for college, military or vocational school

### Workplace Skills

- Strategies
  - Classroom instruction
  - 37 core competency-based curriculum model
  - Local employer partnerships - service include work-based learning experiences, project-based learning projects, internship and apprenticeships, job training, site tours, mentorship programs and job shadowing
- Outcomes
  - Development of work place skills
  - Increased preparedness for career
  - Improved placement into apprenticeship and internship programs



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## SUCCESS STORIES



### RECENT GRAD: KIRA CANADA

Kira entered iJAG uncertain of her potential and future path. iJAG sparked Kira to push herself academically and seek out leadership opportunities at her school and within her community.

Throughout the program, Kira's GPA peaked to 4.0 which she maintained until graduation along with a perfect attendance record. Not only did Kira serve as president of her high school iJAG program for two years, but she served in various school and community leadership roles including president-elect for the National Career Association.

This spring, Kira is graduating and planning to attend a four-year college and become a lawyer. She is the new proud president of the National Career Association for the '23-'24 term and will be advocating for the JAG student and helping improve experiences and outcomes.

### ALUM: CHARLIE GARCIA

Charlie attended a small high school in the Quad Cities where he was relatively shy and reserved. After being approached to become a student of iJAG, Charlie was soon introduced to a new group of peers and was able to spark friendships with those with similar interests and backgrounds.



As relationships were being formed in the classroom, they also were forming outside of the classroom through community volunteerism, project-based learning projects, employer networking events and job site tours. During his senior year, Charlie was elected by his peers and iJAG Specialist to serve as president of his iJAG chapter.

Following graduation, Charlie worked full-time and attended school full-time while serving as parliamentarian for the National Career Association. Today, Charlie is looking forward to continuing his schooling and staying involved with iJAG.