

## National Press Release

# Walmart Foundation Provides \$800,000 Grant to Jobs for America's Graduates and 19 State Affiliates to Boost Employment and College Success

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Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc. has received a grant of \$800,000 from the Walmart Foundation. The grant will benefit at-risk high school students that are part of the national network of Jobs for America's Graduates.

The funding will be used to provide support to 19 of the JAG state affiliates to expand employment opportunities and postsecondary enrollments for the high-risk populations served by Jobs for America's Graduates. Some 26,000 youth will benefit over the 18 months of the grant. JAG students receive intensive career and job readiness preparation, motivational activities through the JAG Career Association, school-to-work transition services, academic remediation, and job and college placement, including ongoing support for a full year after leaving school.

Jobs for America's Graduates has just celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, having served nearly 800,000 of the nation's highest-risk youth who have multiple barriers to success. The core objectives of Jobs for America's Graduates are to enable students to graduate from high school and move successfully into the job market, college, or in many cases, both. The Board of Directors of Jobs for America's Graduates includes six sitting Governors, plus Senior Executives from some of the nation's best-known companies, along with leaders in education.

The Chairman of the JAG Board of Directors, Governor Jack Markell of Delaware, hailed the grant as "coming at an extraordinarily crucial time for the young people who are served by Jobs for America's Graduates." Governor Markell further stated, "The grant is targeted to two of our young peoples' most urgent challenges: jobs and success in higher education."

"Jobs for America's Graduates and its state affiliates are committed to making each Walmart dollar pay dividends for our young people. This expands opportunities for employment and higher education at a time of the highest unemployment rate among teenagers in American history. The Walmart Foundation is making a real difference in the direction of many young people's lives."

"Now more than ever, we are looking for ways to address the dropout crisis and youth unemployment in the nation by providing opportunities for young people to complete their high school diploma and prepare them for college and careers.," said Michelle Gilliard, of the Walmart Foundation "Our grant to Jobs for America's Graduates will achieve both goals--education and work readiness. ."

Job training and college access have always been important for Walmart, and the retailer's philanthropic arm is committed to funding programs that will help the unemployed, youth, and mature workers obtain the skills and training they need to be active participants in the American workforce.

Jobs for America's Graduates operates in 900 high schools in 32 states, serving approximately 42,000 high-risk youth each year. The results have been consistent over the past 30 years, including a 90%-plus graduation rate and overall rates of success of 80%-plus for students twelve months after leaving school – on the job, in college, or some combination.

The 19 state affiliates that will be participating in the grant include:

Jobs for Arizona's Graduates	Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, Inc.
Jobs for Bay State Graduates, Inc.	Jobs for Montana's Graduates
JAG-DC, Inc.	Jobs for New Hampshire's Graduates, Inc.
Jobs for Delaware Graduates, Inc.	JAG – New Mexico
Jobs for Florida's Graduates	Jobs for Ohio's Graduates
JAG – Indiana	Jobs for San Diego County Graduates
Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc. (iJAG)	Jobs for Virginia Graduates
JAG – Louisiana	Jobs for Washington State Graduates
Jobs for Maine's Graduates, Inc.	Jobs for West Virginia's Graduates, Inc.
	JAG – Wisconsin

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#### ***About Philanthropy at Walmart***

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support initiatives that are helping people live better around the globe. In May 2010, Walmart and its Foundation made a historic pledge of \$2 billion through 2015 to fight hunger in the U.S. The Walmart Foundation also supports education, workforce development, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness initiatives. To learn more, visit [www.walmartfoundation.org](http://www.walmartfoundation.org).