



Board Report

Month: April 2026

Administrators: Eric Stewart, Sarah Mansberger, Paige Daniels

Update:

Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) – Program Highlights

As the youth services provider for Michigan Works! Southwest, KRESA operates the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) program, an affiliate of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). During the past year, JMG achieved exceptional results, earning multiple national recognitions for program quality, staff excellence, and positive youth outcomes.

National Awards & Recognition

- **JAG National 6-of-6 Award (Affiliate Level):**
Earned JAG's highest distinction for meeting or exceeding all six national performance benchmarks related to education and employment outcomes.
- **JAG National 6-of-6 Award (Program Level):**
All five Career Coaches achieved all six performance benchmarks.
- **Rising Star Award:**
One Career Coach was recognized for exceptional initiative and excellence in supporting youth.
- **Living Our Values – Transformational Award:**
Two Career Coaches were honored for creating meaningful, lasting impact with learners.

Legislative Day Engagement

Two JMG participants represented the region at Legislative Day, meeting with Representative Julie Rogers, attending a legislative panel with Representatives Jasper Martus and Parker Fairbairn, meeting with Senator Sean McCann's staff, and touring the Capitol and legislative chambers.

Career Development Conference (CDC)

Nine youth participants and three staff will attend the statewide Career Development Conference at Saginaw Valley State University (April 29-30). Youth will compete in three events – Product Design, Communicate 2 Create, and Prep to Impress – with three participants nominated for Youth Honors Awards recognizing leadership and achievement.

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Career Connect Superstar

Each month, Career Connect leadership recognizes a Career Connect Superstar – a team member who embodies our mission of providing learners with transformative experiences, skills, relationships, and resources that support lifelong career development.

In March, we recognized Rehabilitation Therapy Technical Assistant Lori Lee. As the Career Connect Campus Interim Principal Mark Palmer noted in his nomination of Lori:

As the interim instructor of the for Rehab Therapy, Lori has learned and delivered engaging curriculum for her students. More importantly, she has embraced the CCC mission of developing skills in her students that are lifelong employability skills - working with students to be collaborative, responsible, accountable, and dependable. She helps her students develop skills that will make them successful in any career or life path that they choose!





KALAMAZOO RESA
Career Connect

In April, we are recognizing Career Development Consultant Lorri Batsie. Administrator of Career Development Jeni Opel nominated Lorri, stating:

Lorri's work directly advances Career Connect's mission by creating meaningful, transformative experiences for students as they explore and define their career paths. She works closely with learners, bringing patience, intentional listening, and a genuine passion for guiding thoughtful conversations that help young people better understand themselves and their future possibilities.



Action Item: N/A

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Attachments: N/A

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