

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a multi-year program designed to assist at-risk high school juniors and seniors in earning their high school diploma and achieving the skills necessary for post-secondary education or entering the job market. Each year students across the state participate in the Career Development Conference for money to continue their education. This year Eli Lilly and Company hosted the 2011 JAG Career Development Conference state final at the Lilly Corporate Center located in downtown Indianapolis. Students competing in the state finals earned their spot by placing in one of the three regional competitions. There were eight competitions at the state finals with six students competing in each contest.

The highest honor for a JAG student is to be named Outstanding Senior. This year Misty Quick from Shelbyville High School, Ebony Peck from the Decatur Enrichment Center in Indianapolis and Najwa Smith from South Bend's Riley High School were each named this year's JAG Outstanding Seniors and awarded \$5,000 at the Career Development Conference for showing significant growth and for exemplifying the principles of JAG throughout the program year.

Below is the list of the competitions and students who participated:

Outstanding Junior:

- Mariesha Carter, a junior at Paul Harding High School was named outstanding Junior. She was awarded \$3,000
- Bradley Atkinson, a junior at Decatur Central High School received an Honorable Mention for the Outstanding Junior Award and will be nominated for the JAG National Chairman's Award. He was awarded \$1,500.
- Amanda Milner, a junior at Terre Haute North High School received honorable mention for Outstanding Junior JAG Student. She was awarded \$1,500 and will be nominated for the JAG National Chairman's Recognition Award.

Creative Solutions:

- Jacob Davis, a junior at Decatur Central High School won the creative solutions competition. He was awarded \$1,500.
- Leland McGinn, a junior at Eastern Greene High School in Greene County placed second. He was awarded \$750.

Financial Literacy:

- Charles Kealoha, a senior at Arlington Community High School won the financial literacy competition. He was awarded \$1,500.
- Karla Columbus, a senior at Riley High School in South Bend placed second. She was awarded \$750.

Critical Thinking:

- Simone Smith, a senior at Arsenal Tech High School won the critical thinking competition. She was awarded \$1,500.
- Charles Nethercutt, a senior at Peru High School placed second. He was awarded \$750.

Employability Skills:

- Adriena Wright, a senior at East Chicago Central High School won the employability skills competition. She was awarded \$1,500.
- Jared Clem, a junior at Sullivan High School placed second. He was awarded \$750.

Public Speaking:

- Tyla Miller, a senior at East Chicago Central High School won the public speaking competition. She was awarded \$1,500.

- Shannon Watts, a senior at Eastern Hancock High School in Hancock County placed second. He was awarded \$750.

Communications Triathlon

- Kaisha Killon, a senior at Lincoln High School in Vincennes won the communications triathlon. She was awarded \$1,500.
- Keia Elam, a junior at Decatur Central High School in Indianapolis placed second. She was awarded \$750.

Writing Skills:

- Angela Feathers, a senior at John Adams High School in South Bend won the writing skills competition. She was awarded \$1,500.
- Danny Borrow, a senior at Shelbyville High School placed second. He was awarded \$750.

Career Presentation:

- Robert Malone, a senior at Clay High School in South Bend won the career presentation competition. He was awarded \$1,500.
- Jeenezuss Sublett, a senior at Decatur Central High School in Indianapolis placed second. She was awarded \$750.