



**Career Conference for Out-of-School JAG Students Roars to Skill-building Success**

**South Bend, IN** (May 04, 2015) – WorkOne officials are thrilled to announce results from employment-skills competitions among Northern Indiana youth during the inaugural JAG Out-of-School Career Development Conference (CDC), held on April 29, 2015, in Plymouth, Marshall County.

Fundamentally, the overall purpose of CDC is to enable young participants to develop confidence and skills growth by showcasing their abilities – thus strengthening communication and other skills developed via JAG’s process of thoughtful engagement by professional specialists.

At its core, WorkOne’s Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) program focuses on helping at-risk youth strengthen their decision-making, life- and employability skills sufficient to enter, compete and succeed in a workforce or post-secondary education. To reach this skill-level, each participant in the Out-of-School (OOS) program (ages 16-to-21) invests thought, energy and curiosity in JAG’s curriculum as well as participating in community service and other activities, including job shadowing, internships, college visits and the Region 2 Out-of-School CDC. WorkOne operates a similar program for in-school youth, and the conference for in-school JAG students was held Feb. 5, 2015, at the Lerner Theater in Elkhart, and Feb. 13 at Warsaw High School.

"The CDC is a competitive event in order to accomplish vital elements necessary for young people to strengthen their skills and decision-making capabilities, including thorough preparation as well as feeling pressures of a simulated workplace," said Chuck Knebl, WorkOne Region 2 communications manager. "Officials are pleased with skills growth that occurred for students when they tasted a bit of employment duties and pressures, allowing them to glimpse and feel future situations they will face."

<b>2015 NORTHERN INDIANA OUT-OF-SCHOOL (OOS) CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE</b>				
<b>COMPETITION</b>	<b>2015 Region 2 Results</b>	<b>Student Name</b>	<b>Professional JAG Specialist</b>	<b>Northern Indiana Segments Covered by OOS Program</b>
<b>CAREER PRESENTATION</b>	First	Alfonso Avelar	Amy Gonzalez	Elkhart County
	Second	Alexis Standley	Paul Pegues	Kosciusko County
<b>CHAPTER BANNER</b>	First	Burket Alternative Education	Richard Petre	Tippecanoe Valley School Corp. in Fulton County
	Second	St. Joseph OOS	Heather Williams & Anthony Holliday	St. Joseph County

<b>CHAPTER SERVICE LEARNING BINDER</b>	First	Elkhart OOS	Amy Gonzalez	Elkhart County
	Second	St. Joseph OOS	Heather Williams & Anthony Holliday	St. Joseph County
<b>COVER DESIGN</b>	First	Paris Moore	Amy Gonzalez, Elkhart OOS	Elkhart County
<b>EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS</b>	First	Carlin Fulce	Heather Williams, St. Joseph OOS	St. Joseph County
	Second	Kylah Decrow	Richard Petre, Burket A.E.	Tippecanoe Valley School Corp. in Fulton County
<b>JAG AMBASSADOR</b>	First	Alexis Standley	Paul Pegues, Kosciusko OOS	Kosciusko County
	Second	Kaitlynn White	Amy Gonzales, Elkhart OOS	Elkhart County
<b>PROFESSIONALISM AWARD</b>	First	Alexis Standley	Paul Pegues, Kosciusko OOS	Kosciusko County

In each career-development category, students competed under published scoring protocols, and they were judged by professionals from Northern Indiana economic sectors such as education, government, economic development, human resources and social services. WorkOne’s professional JAG specialists are integral to skills growth that students experience; they provide instruction in classrooms yet also influence youth by wearing the following hats: mentor, counselor, life-coach, listener, advisor and skills-trainer.



WorkOne officials have learned that professionals have remarkably strong and positive influences on Northern Indiana youth. These heart-warming impacts occur when professionals engage youth by judging CDC competitions, thereby providing exciting “real world” experiences for young people. Officials have been thrilled by both rapid and substantial skills growth youth typically absorb during simulated workplace tasks.

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WorkOne N. Ind. ([www.gotoworkone.com](http://www.gotoworkone.com)) provides employment-related services to individuals and employers throughout Indiana’s Economic Growth Region 2 (Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph counties). Region 2 features some 23,500 employers, 302,000 workers, and 611,000 residents. **Our mission: We exist to get people jobs as quickly as possible at the highest possible wage by meeting the needs of regional employers!**