

# JAG NM NEWS

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start" - Nido Qubein

As we embark on a new school year, we are inspired by the words of Nido Qubein. This August, JAG-NM welcomes a season of fresh starts and new possibilities. With newly elected board members bringing fresh perspectives, a dynamic new logo that symbolizes our growth, and exciting opportunities on the horizon, we are poised to make significant strides. Our current circumstances set the stage, but it is our collective vision, effort, and dedication that will propel us forward. Together, let's embrace this new beginning and create a future filled with promise and success.

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear JAG-NM Community,

As we embrace August's theme of "New Beginnings," I am excited to share several important updates that signify a transformative chapter for JAG-NM. First, we are thrilled to unveil our new logo and website, which reflect our commitment to innovation and modernity. Our refreshed look aligns with our evolving mission and vision for the future.

We are also pleased to introduce our new board officers: Andrew Mathis as Board Chair, Clemy Garza as Board Vice Chair and Secretary, and Carla Kugler as Board Treasurer. Their diverse expertise and dedication will drive our strategic goals and initiatives forward.

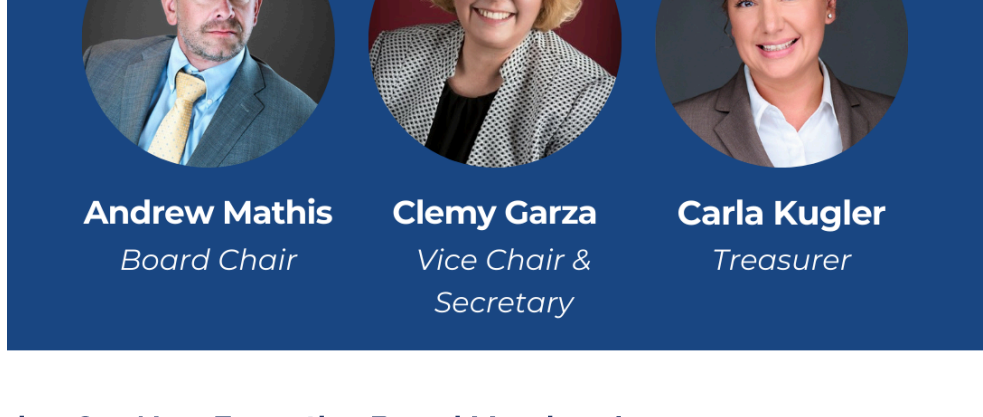
In our efforts to strengthen community and career development, we are launching an ambitious plan to enhance Employer Engagement and establish the New Mexico Career Association. This initiative will expand our partnerships with local employers, providing our students with greater opportunities and support. The New Mexico Career Student Association will serve as a vital resource for career exploration and professional growth across the state.

These exciting changes embody our commitment to continuous improvement and our dedication to supporting the success of our students and community. We look forward to sharing more updates as we continue to grow and evolve.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,  
Kaitly Parent  
Executive Director, JAG-NM

## 2024-2025 JAG-NM Board of Directors Leaders



### Introducing Our New Executive Board Members!

We are pleased to announce the newly elected executive members of our board of directors. Their diverse expertise and dedication will be instrumental in driving JAG-NM's mission forward.

- **Andrew Mathis, Board Chair:** Andrew is a native New Mexican with years of experience in mortgage and real estate, community building, and sales and marketing.
- **Clemy Garza, Board Vice Chair and Secretary:** As a successful franchise owner of multiple McDonald's locations, Clemy brings a strong background in community engagement and business acumen, enhancing our outreach and ensuring effective governance.
- **Carla Kugler, Board Treasurer:** Carla is the President and CEO of the Associated Builders & Contractors of New Mexico. Her financial acumen and leadership will be invaluable in maintaining the fiscal health and sustainability of our programs.

We are excited about the fresh perspectives and innovative ideas they bring to our organization and look forward to their contributions in the coming year.

## WHAT'S NEW? AWARDS GALORE!



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Kristine Moore (pictured above), Sonia Soto, Amber Reno, and Dixie Hollingsworth for their outstanding recognition at The JAG National Training Seminar! We are thrilled to celebrate their achievements of receiving the 6 of 6 Outstanding Specialist, and Top Performer awards!

As we gear up for the new school year, there's an invigorating buzz in the air. Classrooms are being prepared, lesson plans are taking shape, class lists are being finalized, and materials are arriving. This year promises to be a pivotal one for JAG-NM. Last year, we dedicated ourselves to understanding the processes and procedures that contribute to JAG's success. Now, we are excited to put that knowledge into action and grow our program.

We're eager to implement the new strategies we gained from NTS to help our students reach new heights. Our immediate focus will be on our Advisory Committee meetings, which will support our specialists as they prepare for the year ahead. We're also committed to rolling out our Employer Engagement Plan, creating valuable engagement opportunities starting in the first month of school.

Esther Keeton, Program Manager

## National Training Seminar 2024



## NEW SCHOOL YEAR, NEW LOOK

As we embrace the new school year, we are excited to introduce several fresh elements that reflect our ongoing growth and renewal. Alongside our newly elected executive team of the board of directors, we are thrilled to unveil our brand-new logo and website, marking an exciting milestone for JAG-NM.

Our refreshed logo symbolizes our commitment to innovation and modernity. The new design reflects our evolving mission and vision, representing the dynamic growth and future-focused direction of our organization. We hope you find it as inspiring and forward-looking as we do!



Alongside our new logo, we are excited to launch our updated website. The redesigned site offers a more user-friendly experience, with enhanced features and improved navigation to better serve our community. It's the perfect place to stay informed about our latest news, initiatives, and events.

We invite you to explore our new website and experience the vibrant and modern look that represents our commitment to excellence. Visit us at [JAGNM.ORG](https://JAGNM.ORG) to check out the changes and stay connected with all things JAG-NM.

Thank you for your continued support as we embark on this exciting new chapter!

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MEET ANDREA



1. Can you tell us a little about yourself and what brought you to the JAG-NM program?

My name is Andrea, and I am a senior at Rio Grande High School. In addition to being in JAG, I am in my school's marching band. I joined JAG because I was unsure what I wanted to do after high school. I didn't know where to start, so when I learned what kind of things students do in JAG, I wanted to give it a try. Being in JAG helped me discover what I'm interested in as well as my strengths.

2. What has been the most valuable lesson you've learned or experience you've had since joining JAG-NM?

The most valuable thing I've learned from being in JAG is that it's okay to try things even if you don't end up liking them. It's easy to think that the first path you choose in life has to be the one you take forever, but I realized it's okay to change your mind and try multiple careers until you find one you like.

3. What are some of the achievements you're most proud of during your time with JAG-NM, and what goals are you currently working towards?

I've been able to help people a lot since being in JAG. In the beginning of my first year, we hosted dinner and a movie, where we gave free food to our families. It felt good to do nice things for the community. Being in JAG made me open up and be more social, which helped me with the job I got. I learned skills that helped me advance in that job to be a manager, which I am most proud of.

4. How has being a part of JAG-NM influenced your future aspirations and career goals?

So far, being part of JAG-NM has encouraged me to try pathways I'm interested in, even if they don't work out. Now, my career goals don't seem so unrealistic and distant. I feel like in the future I won't get so lost finding what I want to do.

5. What advice would you give to other students who are considering joining JAG-NM or who are new to the program?

My best advice to students who are considering joining JAG-NM and students new to the program is to try it out even if you don't think you'd like it. It doesn't hurt you to try the program, and we do things that make it fun to learn career skills. Being in JAG helps you discover what you're interested in, so try it and try to have a good time because it is rewarding.

## SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT



We are thrilled to celebrate Kristine Moore, our top-winning specialist at this year's JAG National Training Seminar. We had the pleasure of interviewing Kristine Moore to reflect on her time with JAG-NM. Here are some highlights from our conversation.

### Memorable Moments and Achievements

Reflecting on her journey, Kristine shared some of the most memorable moments and achievements from her years working with students. "Some of my most memorable moments have been the opportunities to take my students on exciting trips. Many of them have never flown or traveled out of state, so to be able to take them to Texas, Florida, or Washington DC, among other destinations, has been fantastic. Alondra Aguilera being voted in as our JAG National Secretary was also a very fulfilling moment and the compilation of so much work and dedication she showed to her Career Association at Rio Grande along the way."

### Evolution of JAG-NM and Its Impact

Over the years, Kristine has witnessed significant evolution in the JAG-NM program and its students. "Students take the program much more seriously now and really understand the benefits of working hard in JAG. Watching their predecessors achieve great things encourages them to reach for their goals. The adoption of programs like YouScience has also shown great benefit and has seriously aided JAG students in finding their true career paths. It has helped me find employers who will help guide those students through mock interviews, job shadows, and mentorships."

### Rewards of Being a JAG Specialist

The role of a JAG specialist is incredibly rewarding, both personally and professionally. "The most rewarding aspect of JAG is witnessing the amazing success stories of JAG students after high school. Many of them fulfill dreams they never thought they could, and that is incredibly satisfying. I also love seeing a troubled or disengaged student become part of a real family in JAG and change their attitudes and futures with the self-confidence that experience provides."

### Advice for New Specialists

For those new to the role or considering joining JAG-NM, Kristine offers valuable advice: "Have fun and do everything you can to engage your students! They need someone to look up to and connect with, and you can be the person who changes their future."

### Looking Ahead

Kristine is excited about new initiatives and staying connected to the JAG-NM mission. "I'm looking forward to bringing some new ideas into my class like Mindful Mondays, where I will focus on their physical and mental health. I also have an incredible group of graduates this year, so I can't wait to complete this year of follow-up with them and see what great things they accomplish!"

We are immensely grateful for Kristine's dedication and the positive impact she has made on countless students. Her legacy will continue to inspire future generations within the JAG-NM community.



## \* EMPLOYERS WANTED \*

As we gear up for an exciting school year, we are actively seeking dedicated employer participation to enrich our students' educational experiences. Your involvement can make a significant impact on the future workforce. Here's how you can contribute:

### August: Employer Guest Speakers in the Classroom

Share your career journey and industry expertise directly with our students. Your stories and insights can inspire and motivate them, providing valuable guidance as they explore various career paths. Imagine the difference you can make by sharing your experiences and advice.

### September: Student Site Visits

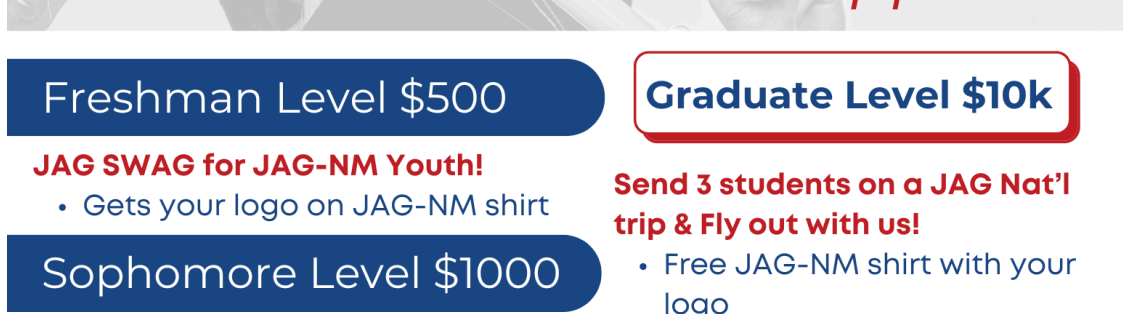
Open your doors to our students and offer them a behind-the-scenes look at your operations. These visits provide an invaluable real-world perspective, helping students understand different professional environments and the skills needed to succeed. Your participation will give them a unique glimpse into the daily workings of your industry.

We need enthusiastic employers from diverse industries throughout The Land of Enchantment. Your involvement is crucial in helping our students discover a wide range of career opportunities and gain a deeper understanding of various professions. By partnering with JAG-NM, you are not only supporting education but also investing in the future workforce of New Mexico.

Join us in shaping the leaders of tomorrow. Sign up today to make a lasting impact on our students and community!  
Email: [christine@jagnm.org](mailto:christine@jagnm.org) with any questions, inquiries, & opportunities.

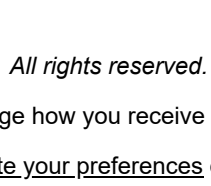
### Every Contribution Makes a Difference

Financial contributions are another powerful way to support our mission. Your generosity will help us provide valuable resources and opportunities, ensuring our students thrive and succeed.



<b>Freshman Level \$500</b> <b>JAG SWAG for JAG-NM Youth!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give your logo on JAG-NM shirt</li></ul> <b>Sophomore Level \$1000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Send a student on JAG Nat'l trip!</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give your logo on JAG-NM shirt</li><li>• <b>Free JAG-NM shirt</b></li><li>• <b>Newsletter Sponsor Highlight</b></li></ul></li></ul> <b>Junior Level \$2000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Send 2 students on a JAG Nat'l trip!</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free JAG-NM shirt with your logo</li><li>• Newsletter Sponsor Highlight</li><li>• <b>Sponsor Highlight on our website</b></li></ul></li></ul> <b>Senior Level \$5000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Send 3 students on a JAG Nat'l trip!</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free JAG-NM shirt with your logo</li><li>• Newsletter Sponsor Highlight</li><li>• <b>Sponsor Highlight on our website</b></li><li>• <b>Prime Sponsor for JAG-NM event</b></li></ul></li></ul>	<b>Graduate Level \$10k</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Send 3 students on a JAG Nat'l trip &amp; Fly out with us!</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free JAG-NM shirt with your logo</li><li>• Newsletter Sponsor Highlight</li><li>• Sponsor Highlight on our website</li><li>• <b>Free ticket to JAG Nat'l event</b></li></ul></li></ul> <b>Partner Level \$25k</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sponsor JAG-NM School Site!</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create a legacy in your community</li><li>• Major Program sponsors name &amp; business logo branded with all communications</li><li>• Variety of JAG SWAG choice</li><li>• Free attendance to a JAG conference</li><li>• Free ticket to JAG Nat'l event</li><li>• Plaque with your logo at the site &amp; for your office</li></ul></li></ul>
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All donations given to JAG-NM help us continue to support our students' growth and success. Your support is greatly appreciated.



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