



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

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### **S.C. Job Specialists Receive National Awards for Helping High School Students**

COLUMBIA—S.C. job specialists recently received national recognition for their contributions to helping at-risk high school students succeed in preparing for the workforce.

Twelve S.C. educators, who work with Jobs for America's Graduates –South Carolina (JAG-SC), accepted awards at the JAG National Training Conference this month in New Orleans.

Six of the job specialists, as well as the statewide program, received Five of Five Awards, meaning they met or exceeded all national standards with their students in the class of 2010. The standards are: a graduation rate of 90 percent, total student job placement of 60 percent, total student positive outcomes (attending post secondary school or employment) of 80 percent, total students in full-time placement (post secondary school or employment) of 80 percent, and 60 percent of total students in full-time jobs after high school.

“Five of Five Awards are one of the highest recognition awards given to JAG job specialists at the national level,” said Elaine Midkiff, state coordinator of the JAG-SC program. “Of the 18 JAG-SC schools with a follow-up group this past year, one third achieved this award. This is a first for South Carolina and shows the program is succeeding in helping at-risk students.”

Seven job specialists received other awards for various achievements.

JAG-SC, coordinated by the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), is a dropout prevention program focused on helping at-risk students achieve academic success, graduate from high school and improve career readiness.

All award winners are listed below.

Five of Five awards:

- Dorothy Fore, Creek Bridge High School in Marion
- Jerron Cauthen, Lancaster High School
- LaTonya Leverette, McCormick High School
- Gail Blake, Rock Hill High School
- Nikki Jett, South Florence High School
- Linda Barr Williams, West Florence High School
- JAG-South Carolina

High Performer Awards:

- Tammy Jones of Swansea High School, Employer Marketing and Community Relations
- Nikki Jett of South Florence High School, Career Association State Champions
- Dorothy Fore, Creek Bridge High School, Further Education Rate of 87.50 percent

Outstanding Specialist Awards:

- Mary Hugee of C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia, AT&T Sustained Performance award;
- Terry Davis of Mullins High School, Sustained Superior Performance award
- Angel Connell of North District Middle School in Varnville, Implementation of First JAG-SC Middle School Program
- Clay Cohen of Chesnee High School, implementation of the South Carolina Career Association, a statewide consortium of student delegates representing their local high school JAG programs

S.C. job specialists who presented at the national conference included:

- Clay Cohen, Chesnee High School: “JAG Career Association: The Key to Your Program’s Success”
- Felicia Minter, Chester High School: “Lessons Learned by a First Year Job Specialist”
- Tammy Jones, Swansea High School: “Using a JAG Student-run Newsletter to Keep Your Stakeholders Informed”
- Terry Sanders, Wade Hampton High School ; Gail Blake, Rock Hill High School and Sonya Allen, Lake Marion High School: “Conducting a Successful Student-led Initiation and Installation Program”

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