



Mitch Donar mdonar@jmg.org

Spring 2017



JMG At The State House

During this spring, our JMG program had the opportunity to have six students volunteer their time as Honorary Pagers at the State House. The Erskine Academy JMG program partnered with the China Middle School JMG program for this experience. This professional experience had students displaying some of the skills covered during the course of a year within JMG. Such skills and abilities include: demonstrating appropriate appearance, working with a diverse group of people within the community, and communicating appropriately to others. Having the students involved in such a compelling experience was valuable for all.

The following students were present (Left to right): Missy Garbacki, Briana Strout, Brianna Soucy, Shaine Staples, Aaron Winkin, and Shawn Seigars.

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The Career Development Conference A Success Once Again

Erskine Academy JMG students participated in a large annual JMG conference, called the Career Development Conference (CDC) this past March at Thomas College. This conference was an opportunity for all high school JMG programs to compete against one another in various career preparation events. Before the competitions began, all JMG students were seated at their designated table in the field house, anticipating the start of the Opening Ceremony. During this, the organizers of the event were introducing the CDC itself, providing some backstory to it, and encouraging every JMG member to do as much as they could in order to enjoy themselves.

Once the Opening Ceremony concluded, each student had events assigned to them for specific times during the day, along with a campus-wide scavenger hunt called Campus Quest. All events were competition-based with the top three per event winning a trophy for their school. Some of these competitions were individual events; however, the majority involved smaller groups. This allowed students to learn and practice a wide-range of career skills that will benefit all involved in the future.

The CDC ended the day with a Closing Ceremony that announced all of the winners from the day's events. The Erskine Academy JMG program earned four trophies on the day, but this conference was about much more than winning trophies. Within our program, we had students who gained confidence by performing tasks outside of their comfort zones, others who displayed effective teamwork, and all exhibited professionalism throughout the day, which represented Erskine Academy in the most positive way. It's these takeaways that provide such great value in having students attend the Career Development Conference annually.

Written by: Nick Levesque and Aaron Winkin



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What does JMG mean to me?

Ashley Viles

Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) isn't just a class that gives you credit or a course that you can brush off because you feel it doesn't benefit you. JMG is a class that gives you the skills to take on the real world. You develop numerous amounts of communication, teamwork, problem solving, organization and time management skills that no other class I've taken has exposed me to. Your JMG Specialist becomes your biggest supporter. They become the light at the end of the tunnel and are constantly rooting for you to push yourself to your greatest potential.

At the beginning of my junior year, JMG was the class I wanted to take because it was an easy A. My attitude was rather negative, and all I wanted to do was stare into space rather than be attentive in class. My grades were plummeting, and I didn't give a care in the world about them. With the help, guidance, and understanding from my JMG Specialist, I put myself on a path to a bright and promising future. I let go of all the useless attitude. My priorities were put in line, and I was striving for success. I was always asked what I wanted to do after high school and my answer was always "I don't know." I changed the idea of my future pathway more than a handful of times. Leave it to Mr. Donar, my JMG Specialist, to ask 6 simple words: "What don't you want to do?" This was completely opposite of what I've always been asked. We proceeded to sit down and make a list of what I was good at and what I had no interests in. I went from wanting to be a Dental Hygienist to a Social Worker. I am now a senior nearing June 9th, graduation, and will be attending KVCC in the fall for their Mental Health program. Thanks to JMG, I will be using all of the lessons I've learned to guide me to my future successes. The five years I've spent in JMG between middle and high school has always given me a comforting place when I was unsure of where to go. I would recommend that every student enrolls in a JMG class, if possible. JMG has not only allowed me to be the person I am today, but also I've seen the program do the same for so many of my peers. I wish to end by simply saying thank you to all involved with JMG; I will be forever grateful for my experiences.

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ERSKINE ACADEMY

JMG PROGRAM UPDATE



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JMG Photo Collaboration 2017



Several of the canned goods collected for the Career Development Conference



Nick Drogosek and William Jones volunteering at the Special Olympics at Sugarloaf

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