



**iJAG**  
Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates

**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

The central graphic features a white graduation cap icon with the text "iJAG" inside it. Below the icon, the text "Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates" is written. The background is a blue gradient with a faint, repeating pattern of diverse young people smiling.



Since 1999, iJAG has equipped middle and high school students to look past graduation, toward post-secondary education, fulfilling jobs, and financial self-sufficiency.

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Investors,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I reflect on my first six months serving as the President and CEO of this remarkable organization. While I am stepping into this role as a newcomer to iJAG, I am deeply inspired by the profound impact that has been achieved over the past 24 years.

As we celebrate our growth from a small organization to a vast network of 155 programs serving 6,992 students annually, I am reminded of the incredible journey we have embarked upon. The students who once walked through their high school halls as iJAG students have gone on to achieve remarkable milestones. They have pursued successful careers, earned higher education degrees, and become leaders in their communities. Some have returned to iJAG, not only as employees but as mentors and champions, eager to give back to the organization that played a pivotal role in shaping their lives.

What sets iJAG apart is the enduring generational impact we create. Impact that transcends the confines of the classroom, as we pass on the torch of empowerment and opportunity to each new generation. Every day, we are committed to nurturing growth, fostering evolution and making profound investments in the future of our communities.

We extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who have supported iJAG on this transformative journey.

Sincerely,



Wendy Mihm-Herold, PhD  
President & CEO





## FUTURE-FORWARD GIVING

To honor iJAG Founder Laurie Phelan's legacy and further support iJAG's mission, we are thrilled to announce the launch of Phelan's Giving Circle, a multi-year giving society.

Phelan's Circle members pledge to donate \$1,000 per year for five years, providing vital support for long-term planning, innovation, and ongoing development.

Thank you to our Founding Members:

- Elizabeth Baustian
- Dustin Blythe
- Jennifer Chambers
- Anne Dirx
- Carly Harper
- Mary Lawyer
- Greg and Barbara Linde
- Natalie Lynch
- Adriana Johnson
- Chelsea McCracken
- Wendy Mihm-Herold
- Ondrea Mysak
- Carole Petzenhauser
- Daniel Phelan
- Franci Phelan
- Janet Phelan
- Laurie Phelan
- Sarah Richardson
- Start Equipment, Ltd.
- Krista Tedrow
- Dee and Pete Vanderhoef
- Allyson Vukovich
- Daryle Wright

# 1,056 STUDENTS IN FOLLOW UP

IJAG OFFERS FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR FOLLOWING GRADUATION

## 6,992

YOUNG LEADERS SERVED

EMPLOYMENT RATE

## 63%

## 97%

GRADUATION RATE

COMPARED TO 90% STATEWIDE AVERAGE

## 58%

CONTINUED EDUCATION RATE



iJAG launched 50 new programs in 2023 and has plans to add 15 more in 2024!

155 programs across 66 communities and 45 counties  
Visit [ijag.org/schools](http://ijag.org/schools) for a complete list of programs.

# GENERATIONS OF IMPACT



*"During my internship at Principal Financial Group I had the opportunity to meet with leaders in many different departments. It opened my eyes to careers I could go into that I didn't even realize were an option for me."*

**Thomas Tremmel**

Class '24

Woodbine High School



*"My mentor from John Deere helped me with a lot of professional skills such as building an appropriate resume and interview prep. They've also been a great support along my iJAG journey and were always there when I needed any type of help."*

**Alontae Gross**

Class '24

Des Moines North High School



*"Thanks to iJAG, I ended up being connected to the apprenticeship program with Allensworth Heating and Cooling. I like that my job gives me the opportunity to make something for someone that will make a difference."*

**Josh Hass**

Class '23

Atlantic High School



*"Right now I'm on the path to become a realtor. I'm talking to my specialist about getting a real estate mentor. Going on the iJAG trips helped me identify how much I like networking and talking to people. Thanks to iJAG, I've learned I have a knack for sales!"*

**Laila Saunders**

Class '24  
Hempstead High School



*"iJAG gave me the tools I needed to network and put a plan together to achieve my goal to become a doctor. Thanks to iJAG, I graduated with a CNA from Broadlawns Medical Center. I plan to work as a CNA during college and gain clinical experience before medical school."*

**Tae'Shaun Presswood**

Class '23  
Hoover High School

# ALUMNI CORNER

Rebecca Vasquez  
Class '10  
Hempstead High School



*"Thirteen years ago, I attended iJAG's Career Development Conference as a student, stepping out of my comfort zone and finding my voice. iJAG changed the game for me – I learned valuable employment skills, discovered my powerful voice, and found unwavering support. Now, as an iJAG Program Manager, I'm living proof of the program's impact, embodying its mission that truly transforms lives."*



**Wendy Mihm-Herold, PhD**  
President & CEO

**Jon Couture**  
Board Chair

**Sarah Richardson**  
Board Vice Chair

**Gov. Kim Reynolds**  
Honorary Board  
Member & JAG  
National Board Chair

## BOARD MEMBERS

Dustin Blythe

Senator Chris  
Cournoyer

Jennifer Cunningham

Senator Bill Dotzler

Carla Gall

Jordan Guske

Dennis Harden

Tim Hood

Adriana Johnson

Jerald (J.J.) Keene

Jonie Kennedy

Anna Lensing

Mary Lawyer

Chelsea McCracken

Representative Tom  
Moore

Carole Petzenhauser

Melissa Price

Pat Romig

Representative  
Sharon Steckman

Kelly Stevenson



Krista Tedrow

Beth Townsend

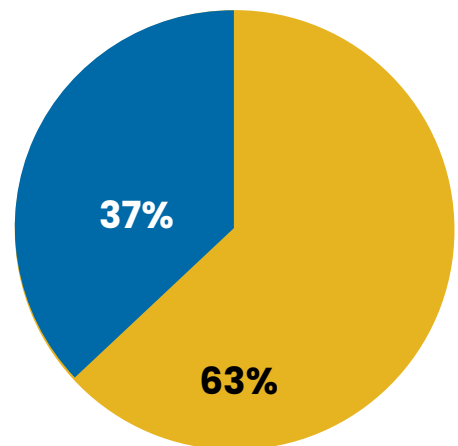
Dee Vanderhoef

## IJAG PROGRAMS ARE UNIQUELY FUNDED BY A COMBINATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SUPPORT, INCLUDING:

### 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

-  Funding from the Iowa Legislature
-  Local School Support and Private Donations

**Total = \$12,982,782**



## THANK YOU

We want to thank all of our supporters who invest in iJAG! Your financial contributions directly support programs designed to unlock potential and empower students as they plan and prepare for their future careers. A complete list of financial supporters and financial statements can be accessed on the iJAG website.