JOBS for DELAWARE GRADUATES

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
OF HELPING STUDENTS ACHIEVE ACADEMIC, CAREER, SOCIAL, AND PERSONAL SUCCESS!

1978 - 2018
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A Note From our President:

It truly is an honor to lead Jobs for Delaware Graduates into our 40th year of providing critical services to at-risk students throughout Delaware. In celebration of this achievement, we honor the team members who, over the years, have shaped the organization into what it is today. We have had and continue to have staff that is focused on the needs of our students and dedicated to working as a team to move the needle throughout Delaware. We celebrate the relationships we have built with our partners in the community and above all, we celebrate the past, current, and future students enrolled in our programs. We are honored to be part of their success and wish them a bright future.

Nicole Poore,
President
CELEBRATING
40 YEARS OF HELPING STUDENTS ACHIEVE SUCCESS

About JDG
Jobs for Delaware Graduates (JDG) was designed in 1978 by five working groups in Delaware, drawn from business, education, workforce, labor union, and community leadership. The purpose of the organization was to simultaneously address Delaware’s unemployment and dropout rates by preparing high school seniors with significant barriers, to transition from school to work.

Four decades later, more than 65,000 young people have participated in JDG programs throughout the state, and more than 250 employers rely on Jobs for Delaware Graduates for producing enthusiastic, well-prepared, and effective employees.
As our seniors prepare for college, trade school or employment, our 11th-grade students are engaged in entry-level jobs, volunteerism, or internship opportunities where they can apply the job readiness skills acquired in grades 9 and 10.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, JDG instructed a total of 2,389 high school students, covering topics from personal grooming and conflict resolution to teamwork, workplace math, money management, entrepreneurship, and occupational preferences.

The Secret Ingredients to Program Success.

Jobs for Delaware Graduates (JDG) is an approved Delaware Department of Education Career Pathway. Our program served students in 23 high schools and 9 middle schools throughout Delaware. Our programs offer a comprehensive curriculum, designed to help each participant develop their individual skill set and knowledge base.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS
Our mission is to enable students to achieve academic, career, personal and social success. JDG works with at-risk youth who face substantial barriers in an effort to increase their chances of graduation and employment.

According to the 2017-2018 data, our student’s top five barriers to success include:
- Lack of occupational skills
- Low income
- Absenteeism & misconduct
- Low academic performance
- Disabilities

To ensure participants receive the proper support, our staff develops Individual Service Strategies (ISS) with students that enable them to set their personal, academic, and career goals. Using the ISS, our staff monitors each student’s progress towards achieving their goals and provides an additional 12 months of follow-up services to all 12th-grade graduates.

As our seniors prepare for college, trade school or employment, our 11th-grade students are engaged in entry-level jobs, volunteerism, or internship opportunities where they can apply the job readiness skills acquired in grades 9 and 10.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, JDG instructed a total of 2,389 high school students, covering topics from personal grooming and conflict resolution to teamwork, workplace math, money management, entrepreneurship, and occupational preferences.
Our Middle School Program has a Students in Action Club, which is a student-run organization linked to the Jefferson Awards Foundation and focuses on recognizing leadership and implementing community service activities.

This year, JDG also hosted four College & Career Fairs (Caesar Rodney, McKean, Newark, and William Penn); brought 130 middle school students to Delaware Technical Community College for the Annual College & Career Conference; and attended Legislative Day, where the DCA State Officers were greeted by State Senators and Representatives.

The Delaware Career Association (DCA) is a student-led association designed to develop, practice and refine critical skills delivered in the classroom. Each high school program has a DCA chapter, which elects officers to represent their school and coordinate development and service activities with the community.

During the fall, the DCA hosts an Annual Leadership Conference in Dover, where more than 230 students unite for leadership training and elect State Officers to represent Jobs for Delaware Graduates on the state and national level.

In the spring, the DCA hosts the Annual Competitive Events which gives high school participants a platform to enhance and showcase their job readiness skills. The top competitors are recognized at our Annual Awards Luncheon.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS
The primary mission of the Jobs for Delaware Graduates Middle School Program is to help 6th to 8th-grade students transition more successfully from middle grades to high school. Specialists provide an array of counseling, skills development, career association, and practical learning experiences that will improve participating students’ academic performance, school behavior, confidence, participation, and self-esteem. This year, JDG served a total of 3,396 middle school students state-wide.

As true advocates who are dedicated to improving the academic and employment success rates of student participants, Jobs for Delaware Graduates provides valuable experiential learning opportunities for each student.

Our ultimate goal is for participants to receive a high school diploma, secure a quality entry-level job in the workforce, pursue a postsecondary education, enlist in the military, and/or seek career advancement opportunities.

Source: JAG 2016-2017 Annual Report
JDG inspires participants to become involved in the world around them. Our community-based learning activities are designed to encourage involvement, citizenship and responsibility through service learning projects, volunteerism, fundraising, job shadowing, and other techniques.

Over the four years, JDG students have completed more than 10,500 hours of service at local parks, food banks, and non-profit organizations throughout the state. Our thriving partnership with the Jefferson Awards Foundation helps us to recognize and celebrate dynamic agents of change.

Students at A. I. duPont High School, Casper Rodney High School, Delmar High School, Positive Outcomes Charter, Newark High School, and all nine JDG middle school programs were honored by the Jefferson Awards for their meaningful public service. Mayor Bryan Shupe (Milford), Mayor Robin Christiansen (Dover), Mayor Mike Purzycki (City of Wilmington), and City Council President Hanifa Shabazz also recognized our students for their outstanding community service efforts.
JDG Specialists work tirelessly to help students realize their value and ability to do amazing things. Our certified Classroom Specialists provide individual and group instruction through competency-based curriculum that prepares students in more than 37 employability areas.

Our Classroom Specialists are committed to helping students secure career advancing employment and/or post-secondary education. When needed, they provide individual attention to help students overcome barriers that may prevent them from taking advantage of their education, completing school requirements, securing employment and/or pursuing post-secondary education.

Our team of dedicated Career Placement Advisors (CPAs) acts as an additional layer of support for youth as they prepare to transition into adulthood.

CPAs visit our high school programs to offer insight into different career fields, provide mentoring; assistance with employment or education applications, leads on internships and job shadowing opportunities, and a menu of supportive services to help students mitigate barriers along the way. More importantly, our CPAs complete a minimum of 12 months of follow-up services with graduates post-high school. They are an extended resource for students that increases their rate of success.
Jobs for Delaware Graduates
Performance Outcomes

JDG programs are student-focused and data-driven. Through Jobs for America's Graduates' Electronic National Data Management System (e-NDMS), we are able to track our impact and identify strategies that will lead to future success.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Foster Care</th>
<th>Middle School</th>
<th>High School</th>
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<td>2034</td>
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<td>2016-17</td>
<td>56</td>
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<th>JDG Class</th>
<th>HS Students Served in the Classroom</th>
<th>Competency Completion Rate</th>
<th>Graduation Rate</th>
<th>Promotion Rate</th>
<th>Return to School Rate for 9-11th Graders</th>
<th>Placement Rate</th>
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<td>93%</td>
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<td>95%</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>1460</td>
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<td>92%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>JDG Class</th>
<th>Competency Completion Rate</th>
<th>Promotion Rate</th>
<th>Return to School Rate for 7-9th Graders</th>
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</thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
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UPWARD & ONWARD

Students who participate in Jobs for Delaware Graduates receive the support they need to help them succeed beyond high school. During the 2017-2018 academic school year, JDG participants reported more than 1 million dollars in scholarships offered. The list includes:

**Scholarship Foundations**
- Bill Taylor Memorial
- Brandon Wingo Memorial
- Diana Leitch Memorial Culinary Arts
- Donald L. Gillis
- Howard High School Alumni Association
- Inspire
- Ryan K. Bradford Scholarship
- S.E.E.D. Scholarship

**Institutional Awards**
- Curry College
- Delaware State University
- Frostburg State University
- Goldey Beacom College
- Pittsburgh Technical College
- Rutgers University
- University of Delaware
- Wesley College

$1,207,177
OFFERED IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CLASS OF 2017-2018

$1,207,177
Career Pathway

JDG is recognized as an approved Career Pathway by the Department of Education.

Grade 7
Communication
Organizational Skills
Study Skills
Decision Making
Team Building
Character
Development
Self-Understanding
Healthy Choices
Independent Living
Leadership

Grade 8
Dreamwork
Lifestyles
Budgeting
Negotiations
Career-based Learning
Leadership
Development
High School Transition
Career Builders
Independent Living
Healthy Choices
Study Skills

Grade 9
Study Skills
Goal Planning
Personal Grooming
Decision Making
Career Pathways
Coping with Change
Image Assessment
Life Skills Math
Conflict Resolution
Group Dynamics
Entrepreneurship I

Grade 10
Problem Solving
Career Goals
Delaware Scholarship Programs
Courtesy & Respect
Teamwork
Workplace Math
Leadership
Money Management
Job Applications
Customer Service
Workplace Diversity
Insurance
Entrepreneurship II

Grade 11
Career Vocabulary
Sources of Jobs
Critical Thinking
Listening Skills
Telephone Skills
Personal Budgeting
Verbal Presentations
Career Spotlight
Constructive Criticism
Professional Ethics
Stress Management
Entrepreneurship III
Delaware Scholarship Programs

Grade 12
Organization
Time Management
Career Attire
Cover Letters & Letters of Resignation
Job Survival
Business Etiquette
Resumes & References
Employment
Interviews
Performance
Evaluations
Pay & Benefits
Employee Rights
Financial Planning
Entrepreneurship IV
PARTNERS WHO BELIEVE

Jobs for Delaware Graduates, Inc. thrives on the support of our partners to increase exposure, access, and opportunities for student participants. We are grateful for the relationships we've built over the years and look forward to reaching new milestones with some of Delaware's finest businesses and institutions:

AT&T

Through our partnership with AT&T and the Aspire Program, students have the opportunity to learn about career pathways and how life in the classroom translates to life with a career. Students get to visit local AT&T stores to meet with employees and try new technology.

BLOOM ENERGY

Bloom Energy welcomes JDG participants and staff to tour their state-of-the-art facility and expose students to careers in manufacturing. In development, we are working towards an internship program for 2019.

CHRISTIANA CARE HEALTH SYSTEM

Our partners at Christiana Care Health System have been essential in helping JDG to develop an effective model that supports internships and co-op opportunities for high school students. With help from Christiana Care, we have provided training for a number of students in Culinary Arts and are expanding to offer three consecutive 8-week internships in various areas throughout the Christiana Health Care System.

DELAWARE TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Our thriving relationship with Delaware Technical Community College has allowed JDG to introduce college in an exciting way for middle school students. Each year, our middle school programs visit a DTCC campus for hands-on experiential learning that highlights the benefits of higher education.
**GOODWILL, INDUSTRIES**

Our partners at the Goodwill play a critical role providing paid student internships for JDG participants. The Goodwill has also been a host for our growing internship program.

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**INTEGRITY STAFFING SOLUTIONS, INC.**

As a partner in job placement, Integrity Staffing provides JDG with classroom supplies and welcomes JDG students for internship opportunities at their Newark location.

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**JEFFERSON AWARDS FOUNDATION**

Our partnership with the Jefferson Awards Foundation creates a solid platform for students to become involved and celebrated for their citizenship. Each year, JDG strives to reach new heights in giving and making a difference in our local community.

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**JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT**

Junior Achievement welcomes JDG participants to their campus for experiential learning activities around entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and work readiness.

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**WELLS FARGO**

Our partners at Wells Fargo visit classrooms to discuss and provide training to our staff on financial literacy. They also regularly attend our College & Career Fairs to speak with students on careers in the banking world.

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**DEL-ONE CREDIT UNION**

Del One Credit Union works with JDG to improve classroom content around financial literacy, banking, and more. Del-One also provides professional development opportunities for our staff.

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**GOODWILL, INDUSTRIES**

Our collaboration with Wilmington University will allow JDG high school students to complete courses that offer certification and/or college credits upon completion.

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**WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY**

Our collaboration with Wilmington University will allow JDG high school students to complete courses that offer certification and/or college credits upon completion.
1978  Jobs for Delaware Graduates was created, under the leadership of Governor Pete du Pont, to prepare highly at-risk high school seniors to transition from school to work.

1980  Jobs for America's Graduates was established to serve at-risk seniors and provide one year of follow up services.

1989  School personnel and the Delaware Private Industry Council encouraged JDG to expand the program to include students in grades 9 - 11.

1992  Jobs for Delaware Graduates piloted a five-year program for students in grades 9 through 12 that included a year of work placement and training after graduation.

2005  Jobs for Delaware Graduates partnered with the Department of Labor for an out-of-school youth program in Kent & Sussex counties.

2010  Jobs for Delaware Graduates piloted a program for middle schools to provided leadership skills for students in grade 7 and 8.

2015  Jobs for Delaware Graduates expanded to provide services in Vocational Technical High School.

2018  Jobs for Delaware Graduates celebrates 40 years of helping student achieve academic, career, personal, and social success.
Celebrating Forty years of helping students achieve success!

We are excited to celebrate 40 years of helping students achieve academic, career, personal, and social success. We are proud of the impact JDG has had on thousands of students throughout Delaware since 1978.

Jobs for Delaware Graduates, Inc. (JDG) began as part of a pilot program to provide at-risk youth with the support, resources, and access they needed to transition from classrooms to careers. Forty years later, the JDG model has been duplicated in over 34 states to assist youth and their families across the nation. JDG continues its commitment to delivering quality programming, drop-out prevention, and career readiness solutions to each participant.

We are dedicating this issue to the students who have brought meaning to our mission.
From dynamic students to passionate professionals, Jobs for Delaware Graduates is proud to celebrate forty students who have brought meaning to our mission.

Kyla Bibbins
Class of 2009
Smyrna High School

What is your current profession? I’m currently a Radio Personality at WZEB-FM Power 101.7.

What drew you to your career? What do you enjoy most about what you do? After participating in several public speaking events during my years in JDG I realized that I actually enjoyed public speaking. I used to be nervous to speak in front of large groups but after getting over my nerves I realized that I loved using my voice to connect with people.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? I’m a proud college graduate and I’m proud of my professional accomplishments. I will never forget the first time I won State Secretary when I was in JDG as a junior.

I was so proud that I got in front of a group of my peers and persuaded them to vote for me, and it worked!

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? While in JDG, I learned that sometimes the only way to progress, grow or change is to step outside of your comfort zone and try something new. For example, while in high school I was shy but I had to get over being shy in order to accomplish my goal of being a professional radio personality. I’m thankful that I was exposed to this important life lesson as a high school student while I was in Jobs for Delaware Graduates.

After participating in several public speaking events during my years in JDG I realized that I actually enjoyed public speaking.

Daniel Walker
Class of 2010
Dover High School

Daniel was born and raised in Delaware and currently lives in the city of Wilmington. His passion for education and community engagement comes from his experience and childhood, which included a high-quality education system that allowed him to be the first person in his family to graduate from college.
What drew you to your career? What do you enjoy most about what you do?

Representation. After seeing the nation vote in our first person of color as President I knew I could do more than become a corporate litigator. I wanted to make an impact in the communities where I grew up. That is why I love my job. I have the unique opportunity to assist others in utilizing their voice to transform the education system into one that serves ALL students. I am able to bring my passion for education reform, public policy, and community engagement to the forefront. I value the opportunity to help others create conditions of success.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share?

Graduating college. I was the first one in my immediate family to get a college degree, but it did not stop there. I went on to pursue a masters in public administration degree from Wilmington University.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates?

Preparation is key. Jobs for Delaware Graduates' commitment to professionalism and training outline the enormous amount of work that goes into navigating the job arena and excelling professionally.

David Yonker
Class of 1989
Smyrna High School

A Letter from Mr. Yonker:

I have had many experiences since graduating from High School, some good and some bad but at the end of the day, each experience was a lesson learned and another milestone which guided me to where I am today. Jobs for Delaware Graduates (JDG), is a program in which I participated during my senior year of high school and is a program which I believe in because it helps students who are not sure of which direction they are going to take, build a foundation on which to grow.

To students getting ready to join the work force, I would like to advise them that any job is a good job and to never be ashamed to work at a place that is "below you," you may not like working in a fast food place or might even feel a little embarrassed because of how fast food employees are stereotyped and stigmatized but that very job and the experience which you acquire will help you in the long run because it will establish a solid and consistent work (continued on page 17)
Diana Wilson  
Class of 2014  
Smyrna High School  
Former Chapter Officer

What is your current profession or if you are in school, program of study?  
I am the founder of Yielding Accomplished African Women (Yaa W.): Ghana’s first finance and technology talent accelerator for women. Also, I am an incoming Associate Product Marketing Manager at Google. I recently graduated from the University of Virginia with a dual degree in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies and Sociology.

What drew you to your career/program? What do you enjoy most about what you do?  
I chose my interdisciplinary major of Sociology and Women Gender Studies because it combined all of my interests. It allows me to develop a strong intellectual preparation in critical thinking and analytical skills while exploring some of life’s most interesting questions. I am equipped with the intellectual discipline to operate under the context of reality through sound premises based upon observed facts. Coupling my liberal arts background with internships at top financial firms, propelled me to develop a varied skill set.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share?  
I went to Ghana on a study abroad through my university. The purpose of our studies was to learn how business works in Ghana. We ventured to some of the top international and local Ghanaian firms in finance, technology, social impact, etc. Soon after, I received the vision of what "Yaa W." is today. Without even being a year old we have been featured by MTV, Google, Blavity, Center for American Progress, Tech.Co, University of Virginia, and so much more. We have been able to partner with the likes of Bank of America and Microsoft. We have just graduated 10 Ghanaian women, who represent 4 premier universities in Ghana, through our 7 week intensive boot camp. Among our inaugural cohort, 30% of them have received internships and fellowships before the boot camp was even over. This small investment I have helped to establish is my greatest accomplishment because it takes me beyond myself. With this amazing opportunity I have been able to enlighten a few that will inevitably impact the lives of many.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates?  
I learned so much from JDG and specifically from my Specialist. I learned to always be prepared. I realized that doing my research on a company or organization and understanding how to align myself with their wants is an invaluable skill. I gained this mindset in JDG and it has really taken me far.
Renee Johnson  
Class of 2015  
Concord High School

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? I moved to Florida two years ago, moved into my own home and I’m working so hard thousands of miles away from my family. Which has taken a toll on me a little but not enough for me to stop doing what I have to do to prove to people that you can have a very bad up coming and go through so many different challenges in life, but that doesn’t make you who you are! It’s what you do with your life after you’re given these struggles. I’m proud of the person I’ve become and wouldn’t change it for the world.

What is your current profession? I am currently working as a Patient care technician/Medication technician at the villas of Casa Celeste nursing home in Seminole Florida.

What drew you to your career? I have always been interested in the field and I’ve always had an interest in helping others around me when they weren’t able to help themselves. The residents give me joy. They appreciate me and what I do for them. And there are so many different opportunities to grow in the medical field that even if you start off as a CNA or PCT like me, if you continue working hard and go back to school and believe in yourself you will move up and be that nurse, or be that doctor that you wish to be. And that’s what I love about my job.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? I will never forget the 11th grade when we were taught about listening skills, personal ethics and verbal presentation. Before taking this class, certain things did not make sense to me. Job interviews were difficult. Speaking correctly and answering questions were even more difficult. And going through the 11th grade curriculum made a lot of the things that I deemed to be impossible, possible. Especially after going through verbal presentation. I’ve always loved writing and talking, but I have never felt confident to speak in a crowd and feel so sure of everything I was saying. [My specialist] believed in me and taught me to believe in myself with my writing and my voice. She told me I could make a different with my voice and took all of her help, constructive criticism and love and I won the 2015 verbal presentation award for the JDG competitive events. From then on I knew that my voice would make a difference and I’ve landed great job opportunities with my confidence in my voice and just not being afraid to speak loud and proud with what I’ve learned. JDG and [my specialist] from Concord high school made that happen for me.

(David continued)
What drew you to your career? After my cousin was murdered in 2002, I started to write down my feelings as poetry. After a while I put a beat behind my words and music became an outlet for my feelings. Whether it’s bringing awareness or personal feelings, music is therapeutic for me. I enjoy music because people can relate and that’s a joyful feeling. Plus, the traveling and meeting new people from different states and countries that love my music brings a smile to my face. As for motivational speaking, I love getting to help someone get on the right path. They tend to listen more closely to my story because I look like them. When I tell my story, they are always glued and amazed at what I am saying. I enjoy the fact that they actually listen.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? In 2017, I was awarded with the “Hero Award” by the NAACP. Also, in 2017, I was awarded with the “Outstanding Youth Leadership” award from the Healing Justice Alliance, which allowed me to travel to Milwaukee to receive my certificate. In 2016, I received “Delaware Fashion Week People’s Choice Artist” award.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? JDG helped me plan for what I wanted to do in life, but life itself had a different plan for me.
Nafessa Jones  
Class of 2013  
Newark High School

What is your current profession or if you are in school, program of study?
I work at Sprint, and I currently study at Criminal Justice at Goldey Beacom College. I graduated from Delaware Technical Community College with my Associates Degree in 2017.

What drew you to your career/program? What do you enjoy most about what you do?
It was a chance for me to learn about the different opportunities and skills I can accomplish. I enjoyed the most about meeting new people and learning new skills everyday to achieve greatness.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share?
I graduated from my first college last year with my associates.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates?
Valuable lesson I learned is to not give up, and just keep striving for your dreams.

JDG values the experience of our alumni and welcome their support in preparing today’s participants for success in any of the following ways:

**Share your story.**
*Our students would love to hear about your profession and how you achieved success! Visit our classrooms to offer valuable insight and information to our students.*

**Host a tour at your place of business.**
*Give students a closer view of daily operations within your profession.*

**Attend a JDG College & Career Fair.**
*Help us connect students to employers and post-secondary opportunities throughout Delaware.*

**Volunteer at a JDG event.**
*We invite you to share your time and talents to help with our annual JDG events.*
Shannon Webber  
Class of 2014  
Laurel High School  

A Letter from Shannon:  

Since graduating from the JDG Program I’ve been enrolled in college at Harrisburg Area Community College. While in school I picked up a job as a Marketing Research Analysts where I collect data and organize it into a spread sheet to create a visual hand out for my employer. I have a job interview to be a teachers aid for Kutztown School District in Kutztown, PA. My degree is in Education and I graduate in 2019. JDG has helped prepare me for not only the academic world but also the professional world. Without the resume building and job interview skills I learned in this program I would not be where I am today. Thank you JDG!

Lynsey Richardson  
Class of 2014  
Positive Outcomes Charter  

What is your current profession or if you are in school, program of study?  
I graduated from Sacred Heart University in May of 2018 with a bachelor’s degree in health science and a minor in Psychology. I am currently a Digital Account Executive at Treehouse Internet Group but going to Grad school to get my Master’s in Occupational Therapy.

What drew you to your career/program? What do you enjoy most about what you do? In high school I had an internship at Jungle Gym Rehab center for children, in love with occupational therapy there. Throughout college I also fell in love with helping people and that is how I became an account executive because through people skills and marketing knowledge I have direct impact on lives. I enjoy the relationships I get to build with my job.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? At Sacred Heart University I had the pleasure of serving on Student Government as the Community Service Chair, I am proud to say that during my senior year I created and implemented the hunger project where I was able to package over 50,000 meals for needy families in Bridgeport and around the United States.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? A valuable lesson I was able to take away from JDG was that
What drew you to your career?

What do you enjoy most about what you do? I have a Bachelors in Accounting which lead me to work for a bank. I work with Bank of America’s wealthiest clientele to ensure that their accounts are safe from fraud. I enjoy the interactions with clients and learning what they do and monitoring how they spend their money.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? Last year I received a big promotion to a leadership role within the company. Hard work and dedication definitely pays off if you put your best foot forward.

I am successful because I had an amazing JDG Specialist.

Natasha Pendleton
Class of 2014
Caesar Rodney High School

What is your current profession? I am a Senior Operations Analyst for Bank of America dealing with their wealthiest clients.

Without JDG instilling these skills in me I would’ve been lost in the business world.

A valuable lesson I was able to take away from JDG was that confidence, kindness and hard work go a really long way.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? The color blue in the emblem, which represents the sky and the vast opportunities. This world is full of opportunity I took the all the skills I learned in JDG and utilized them in everyday life as a stepping stone for my future. You may take for granted some of the things the classroom teaches you such as phone, table and professional etiquette. These are life lessons that I find myself using all the time as an adult. Without JDG instilling these skills in me I would’ve been lost in the business world.

and don’t let anything get in your way. You may hear “no” a thousand times before you get the “yes” you’ve been looking for but never get discouraged.
A note from Tonekkia:

Since graduating from high school in 2000, I went on to Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia and majored in Psychology and Special Education. I graduated from there in May 2006. After graduation I went to work with Children & Families First for their adoption & foster care Program and their residential treatment center. In January 2013, I decided to return back to school to start my Master's. I have been employed with Wicomico & Somerset County Public Schools. In August 2014, I joined BLUE JAY NATION. I am so happy to be apart of the transformation of the nest here in Seaford.

I have dedicated my life to giving back. I have been trying to impact and inspire my students to be active and successful adults in their local communities.

Tonekkia Showell  
Class of 2000  
Sussex Central High School

Alexis Vattilana  
Class of 2013  
Newark High School

What is your current profession?  
My current profession is an Instructional Paraprofessional at Newark High School! I'm also enrolled with Grand Canyon University's online program. I'm working towards my Bachelors of Arts in History.

What drew you to your career?  
What do you enjoy most about what you do?  
I was inspired to become a teacher when I started working as a preschool teacher at a local daycare my senior year of high school. I continued teaching the little ones their ABC’s and 123’s for four years. Then I decided to become involved with older kids and pursue a career as a Paraprofessional.

I love the fact I can give students my knowledge and life skills I have learned. That is something no one else can give or teach them.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share?  
Some of my proudest accomplishments that I would like to share are all thanks to JDG. I was very involved in clubs and volunteering during my high school career. I was president of Best Buddies Newark Chapter, Vice President of the DCA, Junior Ambassador of the Blue Gold games, and also presented Spread the Word to End the Word a Newark High School. In addition, I earned the Chairman’s Award and Presidential Award through JDG. I graduated with a 3.5 GPA. I'm also proud that I
What is your current profession? I am a Clinical Psychology with a sub-specialty in Forensics and Sport Psychology. I currently work at Delaware State University as the Department Chair in Psychology and Assistant Dean in the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences.

What drew you to your career? I was always interested in understanding people and why we are very different in our personality styles. In addition, I think the human brain is fascinating.

What do you enjoy most about what you do? I enjoy talking with and help people who are experiencing psychological crises and/or psychiatric emergencies.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? The most valuable lesson JDG taught me is the importance of being a leader. More specifically, a strong leader. I wouldn’t have been successful in my high school career if I didn’t take JDG all four years. My former JDG teacher, Mr. Schulte, did an excellent job demonstrating what it takes to be a substantial leader in his classroom.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? I am very proud of becoming a doctorate-level clinical psychologist while overcoming a hurdle of personal obstacles. In addition, I am proud to be the mother of two beautiful daughters, who are Lake Forest Alumnae.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? I have learned that hard work equals success and that one should have great work ethic that represents their character on the job.

Dr. Gwendolyn Scott-Jones
Class of 1991
Lake Forest High School

About Dr. Scott-Jones:
Dr. Gwendolyn Scott-Jones is employed at Delaware State University as an Associate Professor and Department Chair in Psychology. Dr. Scott-Jones provides psychological consults at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital’s Emergency Department in Seaford, Delaware on a part-time basis. She received her Bachelors of Science in Psychology and Masters in Social Work from Delaware State University and later received a Masters in Clinical Psychology and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Scott-Jones is a clinical psychologist with sub-specialties in forensics and sports psychology. Prior to becoming an educator, Dr. Scott-Jones has many years of experience working at various psychiatric and correctional facilities across the State of Delaware. She was a clinical supervisor at Delaware’s Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health’s Crisis Intervention Services for approximately 14 years.
Sierra Miller
Class of 2017
Dover High School

What is your current profession? I currently work at Bank of America as a Fraud Analyst but I am in college trying to become a Police Officer.

What drew you to your career? What do you enjoy most about what you do?
I started my careers about a year ago. I eventually want to become a Police Officer but I have to get myself in shape and get through college first. So for now, I work in an office setting answering questions about fraud, doing claims, and assisting customers. I enjoy answering questions for the customers and assisting with their needs. Most of the time they are easy to talk to and it’s fun to come into an environment where all my colleagues are amazing.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share?
I’m proud that I have a good paying job a loving family and a great life. I’m currently getting my degree, I have 2 children, and I’m working full time. I am an accomplished mom and wife.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates?
I learned how to turn a job into a career. JDG helped me get my first job. I made my first resume with my Specialist. I learned a lot being in the organization and I was hoping to connect again with JDG because they are helping a lot of teenagers. JDG teaches students how to prepare when it’s time to find a job, even as a teenager, and helps students learn responsibility.

Shatiya West
Class of 2014
Laurel High School

What is your current profession?
I am currently a Direct Service Professional and an Independent Makeup Artist.

What drew you to your career? What do you enjoy most about what you do?
I enjoyed helping others, I planned be a nurse so I wanted to go into a field that required me to help people straight out of high school to ensure this is the route I wanted to take.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share?
I’m proud of the fact that I’m able to land a job and stay there for years.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates?
I learned that you never want to quit a job without giving them a proper notice. There may be an reason you need to return to that job so always leave on good graces.

Jobs for Delaware Graduates, Inc. is proud to have served more than 65,000 students since 1978.
Colored Conventions Project, a digital humanities project focused on the political activism of African Americans in the 19th century. Wilson was formerly an intern in the Washington, D.C., office of Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE). Additionally, she conducted qualitative research on women’s political leadership in Ghana. During her college tenure, Wilson was actively involved with the administration at the University of Delaware to not only increase diversity, but to create an inclusive campus community. Wilson graduated with a B.A. with distinction in political science from the University of Delaware.

About Gerti Wilson:
Gerti Wilson is a legal assistant at American Progress. She served as a research assistant for the Colored Conventions digital humanities project. Gerti is very passionate about the intersection of social justice, foreign policy, and law. Inspired by her Ghanaian heritage, Gerti has demonstrated her commitment to serving the people of Africa and the African diaspora in the United States both through her professional career and personal endeavors projects.

A Note from Tyreka:
I am currently in school pursuing criminal justice and working full-time as a substitute teacher for New Castle County Detention Center. After graduation, I plan on becoming a probation officer. In the fall, I will be graduating from Delaware Technical Community College and transferring to Wilmington University.

“Always dress for the job you want.”
Gerti was also granted the Benjamin A. Gilman scholarship sponsored by the State Department to study in South Africa. During her time in South Africa, she conducted field research on gender based violence, resulting in her interest in returning to Ghana to empower young women and girls through education.

Eric Brown
Class of 2009
Lake Forest High School

What is your current profession or if you are in school, program of study?
Cloud Technologist: Technology professional empowering organizations to achieve more with software.

What drew you to your career/program? What do you enjoy most about what you do? I have a passion for people and a love for technology. I come alive when I can use technology to help an individual or organization solve a problem. Early on I had no idea what career I wanted to pursue. However, when I look back I’ve always been a computer nerd at heart. I enjoy learning and tinkering with the latest and greatest technology. But ultimately, I enjoy using my skills to help others create what’s next.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? "Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try" - Gail Devers. I’m proud of the decision I made to live an intentional life. I strive to add value to people, and leave a legacy that will make a positive impact on my family tree.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates?
In JDG, I learned to handwrite thank you notes after an interview. This personal and thoughtful gesture is simple, yet can easily set you apart from most.

“Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.”
- Gail Devers
Lamar Meekins  
Class of 2010  
Seaford High School

Pictured below is Lamar Meekins speaking to JDG students at his alma mater about his high school, college and work experiences. He also shared details about his position at Day & Zimmerman Construction Company in Lancaster, PA.

Crystal Ragin  
Class of 2016  
Concord High School

What is your current profession or if you are in school, program of study? I am a junior at Delaware State University double majoring in accounting and english with a concentration of law studies.

What drew you to your program? What do you enjoy most about what you do? I anticipate becoming a corporate lawyer and was first introduced to this career path from participating in the Delaware Career Association’s state officer program where I served as the vice president. I enjoy being in a role where I can help facilitate changes for the betterment of my community.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? After speaking at the JDG Breakfast and networking with some of the guests I was able to intern for both Governor John Carney as well as Senator Chris Coons.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? Through Jobs for Delaware Graduates I learned the importance of professionalism.

Each year, JDG helps more than 3,000 students with significant barriers to achieve academic and employability success.
Dakota K. Clayville  
Class of 2017  
Milford High School  
Former DCA State Officer  

What is your current profession or if you are in school, program of study?  
My current program of study is Elementary Education at Delaware Technical Community College in Georgetown.  

What drew you to your program?  
What do you enjoy most about what you do?  
A lot of teachers influencing me and making an impact on my education has drawn me to my program of study. What I enjoy most is going into classrooms for 10 hour classroom observations to take notes and observe what a teacher goes through during the school day.  

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share?  
A proud accomplishment I’d like to share is receiving the, “Robert Leitheiser Service Award” for outstanding service to my school.  

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates?  
A valuable lesson that I learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduate is to always work hard towards your goals and persevering through all of the obstacles in order to reach the finish line.
What is your current profession and what do you enjoy most about your career? Working with the youth has always been a passion of mine. I currently work for Colonial School District as a Paraeducator. I also have started a local talk show in Delaware called "Late Night at the Studio with Logan Jenkins."

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? I’m proud of a lot of moments in my life - joining the military and winning numerous awards due to my work, but the most rewarding is watching kids graduate. I currently am enrolled in school online with Colorado Technical University and will soon walk across the stage.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? Thanks to JDG, I’ve learned to adapt and overcome any and all challenges in life.
What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates?
While at JDG I learned that I have to develop a strong work ethic. People will know me by the quality of work I produce even if they do not know my name. So that can be a positive or negative depending on the quality of work I put. JDG was a positive experience I am grateful to have had at a time when I was unsure about who or what I wanted to become in life.

What is your current profession?
I am currently a treatment supervisor with the Division of Family Services.

What drew you to your career? What do you enjoy most about what you do?
I enjoy working with children and families. I have a strong desire to see children and families being successful and my job gives me the opportunity to assist in that process.

What is an accomplishment you’d like to share?
A proud accomplishment is that I completed my first Master’s degree in 2009 and currently working on my second Master’s and will be completed in May 2019. I was promoted to supervisor of this agency within 3 years and that is also a great accomplishment.

Jete’ Riddick
Class of 2014
Newark High School

What is your current profession or if you are in school, program of study?
I’m currently a server at The Cheesecake Factory. I received an Associate Degree from the University of Delaware

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? I’m most proud of beginning my project. It has so much potential but just dreaming and planning wasn’t getting me far. It wasn’t until I began building and networking that it seemed like a tangible goal.
What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? JDG taught me SO much. I landed in the class by accident and never regretted one day of it. I was one of those kids that didn’t understand why they didn’t teach the real-life experiences in school. So, when I discovered JDG I didn’t understand why more people didn’t take it, why it wasn’t a required class. If I had to pick one lesson, it would be, that life after high school is simpler when you begin preparing for it at a young age.

Jemika Leroy
Class of 2013
Seaford High School

What is your current profession or if you are in school, program of study? I studied at University of Delaware and graduated with a bachelors degree in Nursing (BSN).

What drew you to your program? What do you enjoy about your field? Always found joy in helping people. My career gives me the satisfaction of making a difference in someone else’s life. I enjoy getting to know everyone’s story and seeing him or her get better.

What is a proud moment or accomplishment you’d like to share? I’d like to share that despite all odds, I passed my NCLEX exam in a month after graduating.

Latoria Ellis
Class of 2004
Milford High School
Former DCA State Officer

In an interview with JDG, Latoria shared her sentiments about JDG:

"The skills attained from my JDG experience continue to enhance my life to this day."

"The entire experience gave me a different perspective on life. Afterwards, I made a vow that despite the obstacles I may face in life, I would always strive for more and never become content with my current circumstances."

"Shortly after receiving my Bachelor’s Degree, I started my own business."

To uncover the full story about Latorie Ellis, visit www.jobsdegrads.org/testimonials.
Quishawn Green
Class of 2007
Dover High School

What is your current profession?
I am currently a special education teacher working as a reading teacher with low incidence high school students. I am going into my 4th year of teaching working with students who are autistic, intellectually disabled, have ADHD and other disabilities.

What drew you to your career? What do you enjoy most about what you do?
I became interested in my career while working with elementary students as a tutor during my undergraduate years at Hampton University in Virginia. Under my previous position working as a co-teacher, I enjoyed reading literary texts with students and being able to have meaningful conversations regarding the texts and content material.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share?
My proudest accomplishment I would like to share so far was joining the New York City Teaching Fellows in 2015 and obtaining my Master’s Degree in May 2017 with a scholarship and earning a 3.9 GPA.

Sean Finney
Class of 2016
Positive Outcomes Charter

About Sean:
I am a sophomore and a full-time student at SUNY Oswego, New York, as a zoology major and chemistry minor. Last year I was on the Hall Council as a treasurer, and have since been promoted to Resident Assistant of my floor. As an RA I deal with any problems or conflicts my residents go through, ranging from minor things like lockouts and fire drills to serious concerns like domestic abuse. I also organize weekly community enrichment activities that are designed to entertain and educate others about professional skills.

My history as a JDG student helped me immensely in my qualification to make these events. I occasionally tutor and I am doing very well in my classes. I am still active in community service and an avid member of several clubs. I am currently applying for research opportunities and networking with several prominent zoologists to assist with my graduate school and career search several years from now.

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What I enjoy most about what I do is the challenge of figuring out what happens with a payment and why it hasn’t been applied correctly. I also enjoy interacting with other departments within the United States and overseas.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? I was able to obtain my Bachelor’s degree while working full time and taking care of my family.

I am now making plans to begin to pursue my Master’s degree.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? Everyone can make a difference. Small gestures of goodwill, a kind word, a good work ethic could change someone’s day or someone’s view of the world.

I still have mementos from my time with JDG, such as photos and certificates, hanging on my dorm wall and am frequently asked about the program. My two-year run as State President means that I have personally experienced many sides and aspects of JDG and am able to talk at length about what JDG does and my feelings about it. I strongly believe that the skills it taught, along with my elected position, helped me obtain my RA job and increase my professional skills.

Did You Know?
Quick Facts About JDG.

More than
65,000 students served since 1978.

23 high school programs

9 middle school programs

69 experiential learning activities.

123 professionals who spoke with JDG students about their careers.

$204,338 in financial impact as reported by the Jefferson Awards Foundation for 2017-2018.
When Students Become Teachers

Former JDG participants now working as Specialists for Jobs for Delaware Graduates.

Derek Savage
Class of 2004
Cape Henlopen High School

What is your current profession? JDG Specialist at Lake Forest High School.

What drew you to your career/program? What do you enjoy most about what you do? I, myself, was a JDG student at Cape Henlopen High School from my sophomore to senior year. The experience opened my mind to the many benefits of the program that would, and still do help me to this day. Because of that, I always wanted to find a way to get back into the JDG program as a specialist/teacher to help instill the same principles and provide the same opportunities that I was able to take advantage of in my adult life.

The thing that I enjoy the most about what I do is that moment when it "clicks" in my students minds and you can see all of the different elements of JDG coming together for them at once.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? Earlier this year, I was inducted into my college’s basketball Hall of Fame. To me, this was a culmination of all of the hard work that I put in on the court and in the classroom.

The moment when all of the kicking and screaming turns into "thank you" and "I get it now".
What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? The importance of first impressions at interviews, using professional terminology and cover letters.

Melesha Moss
Class of 2011
William Penn High School

What is your current profession? Currently my life cycling itself and I have made a profession as the JDG Teacher at Appoquinimink High School.

What drew you to your career/program? What do you enjoy most about what you do? What drew me to my current position as a JDG specialist is my love and motivation to sculpt the youth. I love having the opportunity to shape and teach young adults who look to me to prepare them for their professional lives.

What is a proud accomplishment you’d like to share? I am proud to say at 25 I am able to teach and impact the youth. That is my greatest accomplishment to date.

What is a valuable lesson you learned through Jobs for Delaware Graduates? A valuable lesson I learned through JDG is the power of making a lasting impression. That skill alone has gotten me through so many doors. I am currently involved in JDG and want to be as immersed in it as I possibly can.

Diogenin Matos
Class of 2010
Woodbridge High School

A Letter from Diogenin:

After attending and graduating from Woodbridge High School, I attended Delaware State University, where I majored in World Language Education and Food and Nutritional Sciences. I was able to afford college by simultaneously attending school full-time and working part-time in the job my JDG instructor helped me find my junior year of high school. I graduated about a year ago with a bachelor’s degree in World Language Education with a concentration in Spanish Education k-12 and a minor in Food and Nutritional Sciences. Since then, I have been serving as an AmeriCorps member at City Year Providence. I serve in one of the largest middle schools in Providence, Rhode Island, where I facilitate specialized instruction to 22 students in English Language Arts, Attendance counseling, and Behavioral management.

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FROM THE CLASS OF

'81 Tanjala Jackson Garcia
Dover High School
Tanjala was a part of the first JDG class at Dover High School. She is currently a Certified Nursing Assistant for the State of Delaware.

'83 Michael Clendaniel
Dover High School
I am currently the Staff Lieutenant (security superintendent) at Morris Community Corrections Center in Dover Delaware. I supervise the 3 shift commanders who run the day to day operations at a busy level 4 correctional center.

'86 Jerra Donaway
Delmar Junior & Senior High School
I am currently a surgical technologist.

'88 Gerald Miller
Sussex Central High School
After high school went to college for a year, then joined the Air Force (active duty) in 1990. Switched to the Delaware Air National Guard. Retired in 2013, and became in AFJROTC Instructor.

'89 David Yonker
Smyrna High School
I am currently a Correctional Corporal for the Delaware Department of Corrections.

'89 Denise Royster
Christiana High School
I currently work for Delaware 2-1-1 as an Information & Referral Specialist. I can never forget my experience with JDG! It was one of my favorite classes and I learned so much.

'06 Javaughn Ways
Seaford High School
I am currently a student at the University of Pennsylvania and I am working to get into Medical School.

'08 Jessica Donovan
Sussex Central High School
Currently enjoying a careers as a Rural Letter Carrier for the United States Postal Service.

'09 Celeste Brown
McKean High School
I am enjoying my time as a food service worker with Aramark. My current job is at a college, union-guaranteed 40 hours, with benefits. I am also off during summer and winter session.

'09 Carmon Henry
Concord High School
I have been doing nothing but great things for the youth in my community. Everyday, I look for a new way to impact the lives of our inner city youth. I am employed as a behavioral specialist and also an assistant coordinator for the before and after care program.
I also collaborate with the partner teacher to provide whole classroom support. These include but are not limited to, whole classroom management and organization, differentiated instruction, behavior management, and attendance check-ins. I create short and long-term goals with my specialized group of students and schedule weekly one-on-one or group sessions. I also make daily calls home to parent or guardians for a different array of reasons including, attendance calls, positive reinforcement, homework reminders or community events they can participate in. In addition to my academic support, I am also the coordinator for community engagement in the school and my task is to create school events that integrate both the school culture and surrounding community. As the coordinator, I reach out to many community organizations for support and donations and use these donations to fund school run initiatives that benefit the school, students, teachers, and staff. Without the support from JDG, my dreams and aspirations of helping others would not have been accomplished.
’14 Guerdine Louis
Milford High School

I recently graduated from Delaware State University with a degree in Movement Science and looking to pursue my masters in Occupational Therapy.

’16 Berton Gartell
Positive Outcomes Charter

When I graduated High School, I enlisted in the Marines and left for Parris Island, SC July of 2016. Since then, I’ve been in the infantry doing a lot of combat training for my next deployment.

’14 Henry Miller
Lake Forest High School

Now working as a Lab Worker for Envirocorp, Inc. Great company, made a year in August!

CELEBRATING
40 YEARS

This issue is dedicated to our past, our present, and our future.

Jobs for Delaware Graduates looks forward to another decade of helping Delaware's youth achieve academic, career, personal, and social success.
"MY JDG SPECIALIST SAW SO MUCH IN ME.

Jobs for Delaware Graduates found me at a place called Grace Cottage. I made some bad choices and was in danger of not passing my senior year. [My JDG Specialist] helped me to graduate with my high school diploma. He saw so much in me and worked with us. I remember a song he would always play "...always look on the bright side of life." I learned so much going there because it pushed me to where I am today. I always knew I wanted to be in health care but as a teenager, I lost focus. But I thank God for being in Grace Cottage and meeting [my JDG Specialist]."

Ruth Spruance, graduating from Wilmington University with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing.
Class of 2005 | Grace Cottage