

New program ties education to career

Jobs for America's Graduates info session is Thursday at Michigan Works!

By H-P STAFF

BENTON HARBOR — Michigan Works! and Benton Harbor High School are teaming up to offer an educational option to 120 Benton Harbor High School sophomores and juniors.

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a national school-to-career transition and dropout prevention initiative that teaches leadership, communication, career development and job success skills.

An information session will be held at the Benton Harbor Michigan Works! office at 5:30 p.m. Thursday for families who have been invited to participate in JAG.

Presentations will be made by Benton Harbor

Area Schools Superintendent Carole Schmidt and Michigan Works! Executive Director Todd Gustafson.

The program is designed to enhance, not replace, the standard school curriculum. JAG classes will be taught by Michigan Works! staff and conducted at Benton Harbor High School during regular school hours.

The three primary goals

for JAG students will be graduation from high school, pursuing post-secondary education and/or entering the workforce in a quality job leading to a career.

JAG is a national program operating in 28 states. About 550,000 students have participated in the program since 1980.

After the 2008-09 pilot year at Benton Harbor High

School, Michigan Works! hopes to expand the program to schools in Cass and Van Buren counties, if funding is available.

Potential JAG applicants are chosen by Benton Harbor High School and Michigan Works! staff. If parents have questions or would like to be involved, contact Michigan Works! at 800-533-5800, ext. 1286