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Dropout prevention program announced

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BENTON HARBOR - Jobs for America's Graduates, or JAG, is a national school-to-career transition and dropout prevention initiative.

It is being offered for the first time in Michigan to 120 10th and 11th grade students in Benton Harbor High School.

Classes are administered by Michigan Works! staff and conducted in the Benton Harbor High School facility during regular school hours.

JAG teaches leadership, communication, career development and job success skills.

The program utilizes an interactive approach to learning, including participation in community service and service learning projects and some off-campus travel.

Students will earn two credits toward graduation. JAG is designed to enhance, not replace the standard school curriculum. 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.

The initiative is in response to an increasing employer demand for basic academic and workplace readiness skills.

"Regional economic prosperity depends on the availability of a skilled workforce," stated Todd Gustafson. "If we don't take immediate measures to ensure our area's future employees have adequate academic and workplace-readiness skills, businesses will be forced to move elsewhere."