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Governor Ricketts Shows Support for JAG Nebraska Program With Special Luncheon

On Thursday, September 29, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts hosted a luncheon at the Governor's residence for community partners and employers to show his support for the JAG Nebraska program, and encourage others to join him in promoting the program.

The event featured a variety of speakers from JAG Nebraska, participating school superintendents, employer partners, Commissioner of Labor John Albin and Governor Ricketts. All shared their positive experiences with the program, why they support it and the difference it's making in the state of Nebraska.

"JAG Nebraska is the gold standard of state partners," said Governor Ricketts. "Their work with our agencies, business leaders and community members has cultivated the next generation of Nebraska workers. The students they serve are set up for success in the years to come."

Founded in January 2019 as part of the national Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) initiative, JAG Nebraska is supported by United Way of the Midlands, in combination with government agencies and participating school districts. It is a for-credit classroom elective that helps students develop their skillsets to overcome the many challenges they face – all while setting them up for success in the classroom, workplace and life. JAG students build relationships with local employers, engage in project-based learning and develop a strong sense of civic and social responsibility – helping them graduate with a strong foundation to pursue career opportunities or further their education.

For the 2021-22 school year, 98% of JAG Nebraska students graduated from high school, compared to 89% of non-JAG students. Currently, 12 school districts across the state offer JAG Nebraska classes – and the program's goal is to continue increasing capacity to serve more students through sustainable growth by expanding partnerships with school districts statewide.

"We are so grateful for the support Governor Ricketts, Commissioner Albin and others provide for JAG Nebraska," said Shawna Forsberg, President and CEO, United Way of the Midlands. "This amazing collaboration creates a caring and effective effort that empowers and prepares our JAG students for the future."

For more information about the JAG Nebraska program, go to www.JAGNebraska.org.

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About United Way of the Midlands

For nearly 100 years, United Way of the Midlands (UWM) has served the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro by bridging the business and not-for-profit sectors to create a Circle of Support that helps our neighbors overcome difficult challenges and start building a better future. UWM's funded programs and direct services address social and economic disparities and meet families' essential needs such as healthy food, safe and stable housing, physical and mental health services, career preparation and job training. For more information, visit www.unitedwaymidlands.org.