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Local JAG Nebraska Program Named “Outstanding Chapter” at Annual Conference

The JAG Nebraska program at Gerald Otte Middle School in Blair, NE, was recognized as the “Outstanding Chapter” at the JAG Nebraska Career Conference in Omaha on April 3.

The annual Career Conference provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate skills learned in JAG classrooms across the state and celebrate their success. Participants have the opportunity to participate in various activities such as public speaking, employability skills, financial literacy and JAG Nebraska trivia – with their accomplishments and achievements recognized during an awards ceremony at the end of the event.

The JAG students from Gerald Otte Middle School competed in the Outstanding Chapter category at the Career Conference, where they showcased their achievements during the current school year through a tangible product that aligned with the JAG model of project-based learning, employer engagement and community service. Following their presentation, the group was announced as the JAG Nebraska Middle School Outstanding Chapter during the conference awards ceremony.

"We are incredibly proud of the work of the JAG students at Gerald Otte Middle School in Blair! The students excelled at showcasing their student-led activities for hands-on project-based learning, employer engagement and community service projects completed throughout this school year," said Shauna Paolini, JAG Nebraska Director. "The judges thoroughly enjoyed the creativity, detail and professionalism of the students' submission for this event."

Created through a partnership with the State of Nebraska's Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services – JAG Nebraska is dedicated to empowering students with personal and professional development training and support to succeed in high school, higher education, the workplace and life. Since 2019, JAG Nebraska has grown to serve over 2,000 students at 24 middle and high school programs across the state. Future goals for the program are to continue to expand statewide programs – increasing capacity to serve all students that would benefit from JAG Nebraska.

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

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About United Way of the Midlands

For 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 UnitedWayMidlands.org.

