

TRANSMITTAL # 4

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 29, 2003

FROM: Dr. Mike Rush, State Administrator 

SUBJECT: *JOBS FOR IDAHO'S GRADUATES (JIDG)* FINAL REPORT

ACTION
REQUESTED: Informational Item

The Division of Professional-Technical Education, under the guidance of the Idaho Workforce Development Council, set up and operated six *Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)* pilot sites. Five of the programs were senior-year programs targeting at-risk high school seniors. The sixth, a dropout recovery program, focused on youth who had already dropped out of school.

The programs were very successful in Idaho and demonstrated positive results. Overall, 66 at-risk high school seniors graduated from high school. In addition, 6 youth who had dropped out of school completed GED's. Since the projects were funded with TANF dollars, one of their goals was to reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies. In year one, three unmarried students became pregnant. In year two, there were **no** out-of-wedlock pregnancies!

Jobs for Idaho's Graduates (JIDG) will not be continued because of lack of funding due to the economic downturn in Idaho. However, senior-year at-risk students will still be served in alternative programs throughout the state, including three of the original JAG pilot sites: Magic Valley Alternative High School, New Horizon Alternative High School and the Pocatello Teen Parent Center. Lewis-Clark State College will continue to serve high school drop-outs through their Adult Basic Education program.

The State has other programs which incorporate JAG-like content and outcomes. Professional-technical programs are offered in every school district with competency-based curriculum, career development opportunities, leadership development through student organizations, and business-related experiences. These existing programs will provide opportunities and motivation for at-risk students to stay in school, graduate and find employment.

MR:ss