

## Senator Clayborne Visits Belleville East



Illinois State Senator James Clayborne, visited the Belleville East JILG class Wednesday, December 17, 2008. Senator Clayborne discussed the importance of hard work in achieving goals. He stressed how he

was motivated throughout his life to work harder than people around him and to not look for an “easy way” to earn money.

The students really enjoyed listening to his life story and the many opportunities he has had along with his many accomplishments. Many students in the class could relate well as they were born and raised for part of their life in East St. Louis, the same hometown as Senator Clayborne. Senator Clayborne also

spent time answering questions and discussing what was going on at the time with former governor, Rod Blagojevich.

The Administration, Career Specialist, and students appreciated so much the time he took from his busy schedule to talk to the class, and most of all his ongoing support of the Jobs for Illinois Graduates Program.

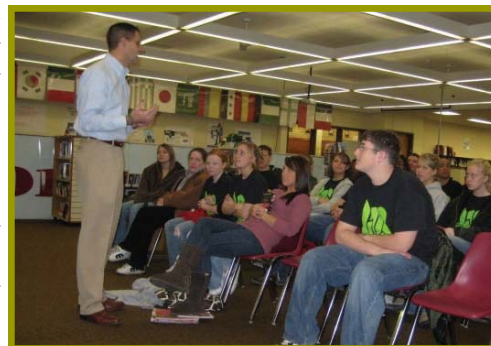


## Representative Jim Watson Visits Jacksonville

JILG students at Jacksonville High School gave a short presentation on the importance of the JILG program to Representative Jim Watson. After the presentation, Representative Watson visited with students about the JILG program. Representative Watson shared

with the students about his recent arrival home from

Iraq and his experiences with the military while being in the Marines. It was an interesting day and students were motivated by his experiences and what he had to say. Thanks for your service Representative Watson!



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## JILG Students Work Together to Help Children in Need

In a united effort, twenty schools who host a Jobs for Illinois Graduates Program (JILG) in Northern Illinois have combined support and commitment to helping children in need. At a JILG Leadership Development Conference conducted on October 14, 2008, student Service Learning Coordinators from participating schools throughout Northern Illinois developed a joint project so that all schools could strive together to have a strong impact. The student Service Learning Coordinators developed a plan to take back to their individual schools. All JILG students committed to adopting a Service Learning project that would best support the needs of children in their individual communities.

Upon return to their respective schools, each Service Learning Coordinator and Career Specialist worked within the boundaries of their own school and community and conducted their own local activities to help children in need. A variety of project emerged that included, holding blood drives, collecting toys for the Marine Corps' "Toys for Tots Drive", collecting hats, gloves and scarves, and much more. Students collected 1255 toys for kids, 573 food items, and 200 books. In addition, many JILG programs decided to help those most dependent upon other, newborn babies. Students collected 727 child-care necessities such as diapers, baby wipes, and pacifiers. A few programs decided to collect children's winter clothing. A total of 472 hats, gloves, scarves, and coats were collected. For a grand total over 3800 items were collected to help support others in need. JILG students worked together to log almost 2500 hours of service to make a difference in their communities.

The following schools participated in the group project:

- |                              |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Amundsen HS                  | Antioch HS                   | Crane Tech Prep          |
| Fenger Academy               | Freeport HS                  | Juarez Community Academy |
| Kelly HS                     | Kennedy HS                   | Kenwood Academy          |
| Lincoln-Way Central HS       | Lincoln-Way East HS          | Phillips HS              |
| Roosevelt HS                 | School of Technology         | School of the Arts       |
| Thornton Fractional North HS | Thornton Fractional South HS | Tilden HS                |
| Zion-Benton HS               |                              |                          |

JILG sponsors are very proud of these students who have strived together to make a difference. The representatives of these schools and people of these communities have truly helped to improve the lives of young people across Northern Illinois.



## AISIN Seeks to Partner With Marion JILG

After several conversations with Mr. Patton about the Jobs for Illinois Graduates program, Cheri Romonosky is really excited about the possibility of a partnership. The Human Development Specialist has been looking for an opportunity for AISIN to “plug in” at Marion High School. Community involvement is a distinctive aspect of the business.

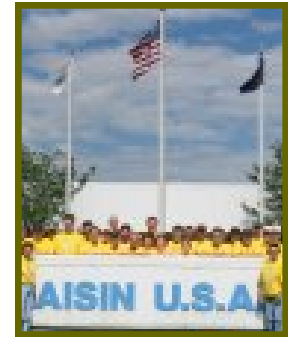
Management internships, job shadowing, and ways to help

with mock job interviews have all been discussed. “The economy is bad right now, and we want to help students make themselves as marketable as possible,” Romonosky said.

JILG, Inc. sees benefits from all directions when schools partner with prominent businesses in the community. Students learn the value of hands-on experience in times like this. “Students who have taken advantage of a

management internship with AISIN would be head-and-shoulders above the competition in a job search,” says Patton. The mock job interview section of the curriculum would also be much more realistic if a business leader interviewed the JILG students.

We look forward to working more closely with AISIN in the near future.



## Juarez JILG Receives Environmental Grant

By: Juanita Medina

Once again, Juarez has partnered up with the Building with Books organization to try a new recycling program at our school. Through a Harris Fellows Grant, we were able to buy 11 recycling bins, 3 that actually crushed cans and 8 plastic bins. The JILG class worked in teams to help build the bins and distribute them throughout

the building.

What seemed like a difficult task soon became easy as we realized that by working together, we were able to accomplish so much more. At first, it seemed like we were competing to finish first, but working against each other was not successful because we were just frustrated and wanted to quit our groups. Then those who finished

started walking around and helping those who were struggling.

We are hoping that these bins will raise awareness about keeping our environment clean. Hopefully students will be able to understand the importance of recycling so that they will be able to bring this important task home.



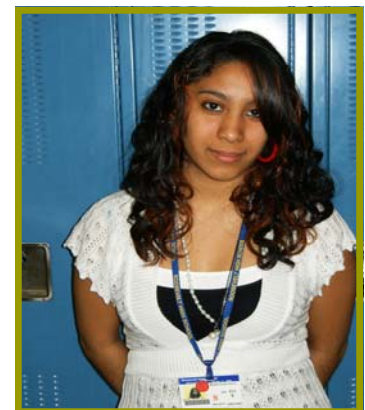
## Roosevelt Student of the Month: Ruth Guerrero

By: Yvette Noriega

Ruth Guerrero is the Roosevelt student of the month in February. She is a consistent student who has had perfect attendance during the first semester. She has always worked hard in the classroom, and often spends time helping other students with work they are having trouble with. Ruth is a positive force in the classroom and in the community. She stated that she had her best semester yet, with all A's and one B. One of Ruth's many interests is languages. She is in her

fourth year of French and is currently learning Arabic. Born in a Spanish speaking home, she is already fluent in that language. If she learns Arabic she will be fluent in four languages. When asked about her motivation in school this year, she stated her mother has been a big influence, “what she has been saying to me all these years has really set in this year. I guess that means I am more mature now.” She also stated that her new job at Gibson Dry Cleaners has increased her focus and di-

rection in school. She said the job has made her use her time more wisely. As for her future plans Ruth mentioned, “she has a passion for fashion.” She is interested in becoming a designer, and being in the fashion industry in some capacity. Currently she is applying for scholarships and completing FAFSA. She said she is leaning towards entering the fashion program at Dominican University next year. Congratulations to this high achieving student who has a bright future!



## Thornton Fractional North Students Make the Honor Roll for the First Time

**“YOU ARE NOT  
GIVEN YOUR  
GRADES, YOU  
EARN YOUR  
GRADES.”**

This year the consensus seems to be the same among many students who are participating in the JILG program...I have never been on the honor roll. Many students in the program have uttered these words but they have done it with a smile on their face, for they have done what they never dreamed

possible...they have made it on the honor roll. One thing we stress in the class is being responsible for your own actions, and be willing to accept the consequences. If you do not feel like doing an assignment, then do not do it however the only person who suffers in that decision is you. The only person you

have to blame is yourself. In the past the students have always wanted to blame their teachers for their grades, JILG students are finally beginning to understand the phrase: “You are not given you grades, you EARN your grades!” Congratulations to those students on this wonderful achievement!

## Antioch JILG Adopts-a-Family for the Holidays

This month the students in the Jobs for Illinois Graduates (JILG) program at Antioch HS participated in a service learning project for the local food pantry. The students were given an anonymous family by the local food pantry. This is a family that is down on their luck right now and receives food from the pantry each week. The JILG students wanted to make the family happy for the holidays and decided to collect gifts for them

students could either bring in a gift for the family or raise money for the cause.

In order to raise money for the Adopt-A-Family project, the students made sure to stock the JILG milk vending machine. They went to store everyday and took time out of their day to organize the product. All proceeds from the vending machine went towards buying gifts for the needy family.

Once the project was finally over, the students had raised over \$400 for the family of five. The students donated and raised money for things like jackets, sweatshirts, boots, toys, DVDs and

books. The class loved buying for the five year old boy. Many toys and action figures were purchased with the money they raised so that the little boy could have some fun things to play with.

With all the hard work that the students put into this project, they felt really great about themselves. It was nice to do something for those less fortunate especially during the winter holidays. It was also really nice to know that the gifts were going to a local family. All in all, the students had a great time and got to help other people while doing it.



Each student in the JILG program was required to participate in the service learning project. The stu-

## ADM Offers Scholarships to JILG Students



Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) has offered MacArthur and Eisenhower JILG students a scholarship! The requirements for MacArthur scholarship consisted of developing a resume and submitting unofficial transcripts. Students from both schools will be selected to receive scholarships, perhaps even as many as five students from each school. The exact

number and amount of the scholarships are yet to be determined. What an EXCELLENT opportunity ADM is offering to our students! Thank you to ADM for your continued support of the Jobs for Illinois Graduates students!

## Fundamental Components of JILG

1. **Classroom Instruction.** A trained "Career Specialist" provides individual and group instruction to 35-45 students who have been carefully selected for the program by an in-school advisory committee.
2. **Employability Skills.** The National Curriculum equips participants with 37 employability competencies that will prepare them for the workplace and beyond.
3. **Adult Mentoring.** Specialists provide individual attention to students to overcome barriers that prevent them from taking advantage of their high school education, completing requirements for a high school diploma and/or securing employment or pursuing a postsecondary education leading to a career after high school or GED completion.
4. **Advisement and Support.** Specialists provide advice and support as students make significant career and life decisions. Based on the individual needs of students, specialists connect participants to professional counseling services to address more serious barriers, such as mental health problems, substance abuse, etc.
5. **Summer Employment Training.** Job placement services are provided during the summer months and partnerships are developed with summer youth employment programs to support year-long learning.
6. **Student-Led Leadership Development.** A highly motivating student-led organization, the National Career Association, builds on the competency-based curriculum and provides opportunities for students to develop, practice and refine their leadership and teaming skills. Participants are provided the opportunity to participate in regional Leadership Development Conferences and state Career Development Conferences offering general sessions, career workshops and competitive events.
7. **Job and Postsecondary Education Placement Services.** Specialists are actively involved in intensive, one-on-one employer marketing and job development activities to identify entry-level job opportunities for students after graduation or GED completion. Likewise, specialists assist graduates in the exploration of postsecondary education opportunities and show them how to navigate the financial aid process to pursue these opportunities.
8. **Linkages to School and Community-Based Services.** JILG programs serve as a school-based "one-stop center" for targeted youth to deliver academic and social services using school and community resources.
9. **12-Month Follow-up Services.** JILG provides no less than twelve months of follow-up services and support on the job or in a pursuit of a postsecondary education after graduation or completion of a GED. Follow-up services include: Guidance in pursuing a postsecondary education, placement in an entry-level job that leads to a career opportunity, and positive change of status within the follow-up period.
10. **Accountability System.** Computerized tracking of participants served, services delivered and performance outcomes (graduation rate, positive outcomes, rates, aggregate employment rate, full-time jobs rate, full-time placement rate, further education rate, wages, and return to school rate) provides JILG with a vehicle for holding programs accountable for achieving Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Model outcomes. JAG accredits state and local affiliates based upon their ability to fully implement the JAG Model. Site reviews are conducted by trained staff and an Accreditation Report is provided to stakeholders.
11. **Professional Development.** Continuous improvement through the ongoing professional development of managers, supervisors and specialists is an ongoing service provided to state and local affiliates.
12. **Ownership provides strict accountability.** Specialists are held personally accountable for the success of young people targeted for a JILG Model Program. The National Data Management System (NDMS) provides the JAG National Network with a comprehensive tracking system to report the students served, the services delivered, and the outcomes achieved.
13. **Activity-based classroom instruction.** The JAG National Curriculum consists of 81 activity-based and competency based modules providing more than 810 hours of classroom instruction. Each module provides a math and reading assignment to improve basic skills. A pre-and post-test assessment provides a method for documenting competency attainment.
14. **Motivation is key to achieving success.** A variety of techniques are used to create a learning environment that is motivating to young people served by a JILG Model Program. The most unique technique is the use of a student-led organization. Chapter activities provide a laboratory for participants to develop, practice and refine their personal, leadership and teaming skills that are critical to success in the workplace and in pursuit of a postsecondary education.
15. **Cost-effective program.** The JAG Board insists upon the operation of a cost-effective program. The average cost per participant is \$1,500 for the in-school phase of the program. Full-time employed graduates or completers who are full-time employed repay the cost of their participation within 14 months after leaving school.

## THE SKILLS TO GRADUATE, THE CONFIDENCE TO SUCCEED



THE SKILLS TO GRADUATE  
THE CONFIDENCE TO SUCCEED

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## Help Support Jobs for Illinois Graduates

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Thank you for your continued support of the Jobs for Illinois Graduates (JILG) program at. It is with much regret that I inform you that this program has been cut from the Illinois State Board of Education budget. It is our hope that you will continue to support JILG in its efforts to gain funding for the next school-year.

JILG is an exciting program which helps high school students not only stay in school but also graduate, successfully enter the workforce, college or military and places them on the path for future success. JILG vigilantly tracks and responds to program outcomes, while keeping students at the center of the educational process. For the Class of 2007,

over 96% of our students graduated from high school. In the year following high school graduation, over 88% pursued higher education, obtained employment, enlisted in the military, or a combination thereof on a full-time basis.

For eleven consecutive years, JILG has been nationally recognized as the best state-wide program of its kind for exceeding national standards for programs working with at-risk youth. Program performance standards are monitored by the Center of Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University and Jobs for America's Graduates.

Based on this track record of success, it is imperative that JILG remain on the Govern-

nor's budget for FY10. Any support or assistance to these ends that you can offer would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me us through our website at [www.jilginc.org](http://www.jilginc.org). We look forward to sharing our success with you!