



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Alexis Keith, The Abbi Agency

alexis@theabbiagency.com

775-446-0273

Link to photo: [here](#). Courtesy of J4NG.

**Jobs for Nevada's Graduates team at Chaparral High School takes top national honors
for The LOVE Project**

Clark County high schools recognized in competition among programs in 40 states

LAS VEGAS, Nevada — A team of [J4NG](#) students from Chaparral High School in Las Vegas won top national honors during a national Career Development Conference hosted by Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) in early May.

Jobs for Nevada's Graduates was created by the state of Nevada to help Nevada's most historically underserved students to graduate and find a career pathway.

The 14 Nevada students who traveled to Dallas for the national Career Development Conference competed against teams from the 40 other states that sponsor JAG programs. The theme of this year's conference was "Think Big" and included 10 employability-based competitive events, 54 educational workshops, a College and Career Exhibit, and keynote addresses from motivational speakers EJ Carrion and Ashley Bendiksen.

Students from Chaparral High School in Las Vegas won first place nationally with their "L.O.V.E. (Lifting Our Voices for Equity) Project" that emphasized the importance of mental health awareness.

Students at the conference shared about their work and impact of the L.O.V.E. Project, such as selling more than 100 bracelets with positive affirmations to increase mental-health awareness and donating proceeds to local mental health organizations. They also hosted a lunch celebration with mental-health awareness messaging, organized a mental health day at the school, organized a basketball game that pitted members of the J4NG program against the student body and oversaw a balloon release that symbolized students' commitment to letting go of struggles, challenges and traumas so they can focus on the future.

"Going to the first ever NCA Conference was very exciting," said student Lucas Godard. "The number of people from across the country was astounding and getting to meet some of them really opened my eyes. Just because we sound or look different and may have different views, it didn't stop us from coming together and having an amazing time making history."

United Way of Southern Nevada provides important financial support for the Chaparral High School J4NG program.



Other Southern Nevada teams which were honored at the Career Development Conference include:

- West Preparatory Academy. Prepared Speaking Competition.
- Delta Academy. Top 10 Finalist, Career Preparation Competition.
- Students from three high schools in northern Nevada also took honors:
- Damonte Ranch High School. Third-place in Business Plan Competition and Top 10 Finalist in Financial Literacy.
- Reed High School. Top 10 Finalist, Employability Skills Competition.
- Wooster High School. Top 10 Finalist, Creative Decision-Making Competition.
- A Knowledge Bowl team of students statewide took second-place honors in the national competition.

“My favorite part of National CDC in Dallas was getting to meet tons of people from around the country and bonding over our love for the JAG program!” said another student Maddy Platshorn.

###

About Jobs for Nevada’s Graduates

Jobs for Nevada's Graduates (J4NG), is a statewide nonprofit, part of the national organization, Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG). J4NG empowers positive futures for Nevada’s youth by working with students to achieve graduation and find career pathways. J4NG helps Nevada students reach their potential using in-depth mentoring, instruction, data-driven strategies and long-term support. 60 schools across Nevada offer J4G programs through J4NG, serving more than 3,300 students. J4NG students receive over 120+ hours of career readiness instruction, guidance and support through graduation and the first 12 months after graduation.