



Kansas Department of Insurance

Commissioner Vicki Schmidt

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JAG-K students receive financial literacy scholarships from the Kansas Department of Insurance

Topeka, Kan. – Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, today, announced three participants in Jobs for Americas’ Graduates-Kansas (JAG-K) programs as winners of a financial literacy essay scholarship contest sponsored by the Securities Division of the Kansas Department of Insurance.

The winners of the scholarships were recognized at the JAG-K Career Development Conference hosted at Wichita State University. The Department granted \$10,000 to JAG-K designated for a financial literacy essay contest in which the top three JAG-K student essays split a share of the grant in scholarship funds.

The scholarship winners are:

1st Place, \$5,000 – Joel Umana, Newton High School

2nd Place, \$3,000 – Amiyah Beard, Newton High School

3rd Place, \$2,000 – Alex Toribo-Trana, Newton High School

“This year’s winners showed strong knowledge of investment fraud risks and how to apply techniques designed to stop scammers,” said Commissioner Schmidt. “The essays show that JAG-K students are obtaining practical money skills that will serve them well in adulthood.”

“Financial literacy is an important aspect of the evidence-based JAG model,” said JAG-K President and CEO Chuck Knapp. “We appreciate the strong, consistent support of our efforts and our students by Commissioner Schmidt. The Kansas Department of Insurance has been a great partner in helping students prepare for successful futures.”

The first-place essay will join two other winners from Junior Achievement and the Kansas Council for Economic Education to compete for the overall winner of the essay contest and an additional scholarship of \$5,000.

To learn more about JAG-K, visit www.jagkansas.org, ‘Jobs for America’s Graduates-Kansas’ on Facebook, and on X at @JAG_Kansas. For more information about the Kansas Department of Insurance or to learn more about making smart investment decisions visit insurance.kansas.gov and SmartInvestKS.gov.

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JAG-K is a multi-year, in-school program for students in grades 6-12 that offers tools to successfully transition students into post-secondary school, the military, or directly into the workforce with marketable skills. Participants in the program face multiple barriers to success that their JAG-K Career Specialist helps them overcome through a nationally accredited, evidence-based model. The Securities Division of the Kansas Department of Insurance partners with student development organizations like JAG-K to support and promote financial literacy programs throughout the state.