



Press Release from JMG

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JMG Celebrates 25 Years of Student Success

JMG holds 25th Anniversary Gala, opens 25 new programs, and launches endowment campaign

Augusta – JMG celebrated its 25th anniversary surrounded by students and supporters at a gala at the Augusta Civic Center on Friday, September 28. More than 700 guests, including Maine business, community and government leaders, paid tribute to the 50,000 students JMG has served over 25 years. The event was hosted by The Honorable Paul R. LePage, Senator Angus S. King, The Honorable John E. Baldacci, and The Honorable John R. McKernan, Jr., the four governors who have held office and supported JMG since the program's inception.

Guests heard personal stories from JMG alumni describing how the program changed their lives. "JMG gave me the confidence and the skills I needed to pursue leadership roles in my career," explained Chad Burke, a business owner and member of the Maine Air National Guard, who participated in JMG in 1993, the first year of the program's existence. "Little did I expect that twenty five years later, I would have three children who would enroll in JMG and are also benefiting as they pursue post-secondary pathways and plan for their careers."

During the festivities, JMG President and CEO Craig Larrabee announced that with the support of private investors, public funding and the LePage administration, JMG opened 25 new programs across the state this fall. "Because of the strength of our public/private partnership approach, and bipartisan support for our mission, JMG has been able to expand our reach to 9,000 students annually," said Larrabee. "JMG is immensely grateful for this opportunity to continue to prepare our students to meet the needs of Maine's employers and strengthen the economy."

During the gala, Greg Powell, Chairman of the Harold Alfond Foundation, announced a \$4.5 million grant to JMG. "We consider JMG to be one of Maine's anchor organizations making important contributions to the state and economy," said Powell. "We are very excited to help secure the future of this work and the continued success of the students served by JMG, who are members of Maine's emerging workforce."

\$1.5 million of the Harold Alfond Foundation gift was awarded as a matching challenge grant supporting a \$5 million endowment campaign launched by JMG at the gala. JMG's endowment was seeded with a \$500,000 gift from Maine philanthropist Paul Coulombe.

The remaining \$3 million of the Harold Alfond Foundation gift will support expansion of JMG's College Success Program over five years. The program will now be delivered on ten campuses in total, serving students enrolled in Maine's community college and university systems. The College Success Program supports students who are in foster, older youth who have earned a high school equivalency diploma, and students who have participated in JMG's core programs. JMG's College Success Program is a comprehensive post-secondary preparation, bridging, and credential completion program that starts in high school and continues seamlessly through the college.

"This investment ensures significantly more students will earn the post-secondary credentials required to succeed in today's economy," said Kim Acker Lipp, Executive Vice President for JMG. "The expansion of our model means JMG is the only statewide nonprofit providing a continuum of support to students from middle school, into high school, through post-secondary education and into meaningful careers."

For more information about JMG or to discuss how to make a matching contribution to support JMG's endowment campaign, please contact JMG's Vice President of Institutional Advancement Heather Douglass at 207-332-0500 or hdouglass@jmg.org.

JMG is a statewide, private nonprofit that partners with public schools and private businesses to offer results-driven solutions to ensure all Maine students graduate, attain post-secondary credentials and pursue meaningful careers. JMG provides more than 9,000 students a year with the skills and experience they will need to reach their potential. JMG graduates become engaged members of their communities, productive adults in the workforce, and contributors to Maine's economy.

Founded in 1950, the Harold Alfond Foundation furthers the philanthropic legacy of Harold Alfond, the founder of Dexter Shoe Company and a longtime supporter of Maine communities in which he and his family worked and resided. He ensured that his philanthropy would live on by committing nearly all of his wealth to the Foundation, which continues to support charitable causes in the State of Maine. Consistent with Harold Alfond's own giving pattern and philanthropic principles, the Foundation favors education, healthcare, youth development, and other selected charitable causes.