

**News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Northern Michigan Students Attend National Leadership Event**

NORTHWEST LOWER, MI – Students in the Jobs for Michigan’s Graduates (JMG) program coordinated by Northwest Michigan Works! attended the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) National Student Leadership Academy (NSLA) December 1 –3 in Washington, D.C. The NSLA is a capstone leadership experience for National Career Association state officers and local chapter leaders providing unique experiences through experiential learning, real-world applicability, and networking. 400 youth from around the U.S. attended the event and just eight youth from each state were selected to attend through a competitive process.

The northern Michigan students attending the National Leadership Academy were Northwestern Michigan College students Sereta Feger and Kayla Wittkop, North Ed Automotive Tech student El Reid, and 2022 Pellston High School graduate Jocelyn Thomson. In addition to leadership development, the students explored our Nation’s Capital, visited with leaders on Capitol Hill, participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, and saw the sights during the Twilight Monument Tour. JMG staff members Lisa Baldyga and Tracy Beckley accompanied the students.

Northwest Michigan Works! is proud to partner with Jobs for Michigan’s Graduates (JMG) in serving the region’s youth. JMG is the leading program of Youth Solutions, Inc., a premier youth opportunity organization on a mission to equip young people with the skills to overcome barriers and win in education, employment, and as citizens. The JMG program consists of a comprehensive set of services designed to help young people achieve education and career goals. The purpose of this program is to inspire and connect youth to achieve a future beyond imagination.

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Interim Board Chair: **Bill Kennis**  
Chief Executive Officer: **Terry Vandercook**



NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at [dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org) and stating preferences for resolution, file format, and file size. Or phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: [networksnorthwest.org/media](http://networksnorthwest.org/media)

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10-county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works!, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our website, [networksnorthwest.org](http://networksnorthwest.org). Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.

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Northwest Michigan Works! is supported by the State of Michigan and is a proud partner of the American Job Center Network. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may call the Michigan Relay Center by dialing 711. Equal opportunity employer/program. This project may have been funded with federal funds. Visit the Networks Northwest website for more information at [nwm.org/financial](http://nwm.org/financial).