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STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS IMAGINE A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE!
Thousands of Students Challenged to Prepare Themselves for Lifelong Career Achievement During Alabama’s 2015 Joint Leadership Development Conference

Montgomery, Ala. – Take a moment and imagine if students in our state had the opportunity to gain valuable career advice from a professional who has been a successful White House appointee. Or, what if Alabama students had the chance to get sound leadership advice from an expert who has been a career coach on MTV’s well-known Made television program. Better yet, what if Alabama’s high school students had the chance to network with a leading professional who has also been a member of The David Letterman Show staff.

Well, next week, October 19-20, each of these dreams will become reality as more than 6,500 Alabama students travel to Birmingham to attend the 2015 Joint Leadership Development Conference (JLDC).

Alabama’s future success is dependent on its K-12 students and how prepared they are to have successful lives after they graduate from high school.

The JLDC is the largest non-athletic gathering of youth for an educational purpose in our state. This conference focuses on preparing Alabama’s students for both college and career success. A great line-up of events, leadership workshops, and entertainment has been planned for this two-day event, which will be held at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC).

The Exciting List of Speakers!

- Featured on NBC News’ TODAY, Fox television, MTV, and in The New York Times, Julie Marie Carrier is a go-to speaker and award-winning author for student leadership and character building. An Emmy-nominee, Carrier has brought her message to millions of American homes as a national student success coach for MADE – MTV’s Emmy-Award-winning television show for students.

- Sam Glenn knows how to recharge positivity, ignite innovation, and have fun. Well known for being a top national speaker, author, and a recent winner of the Best Speaker of the Year award, Glenn still insists that he is just a regular guy who simply understands how to recognize, reward, and inspire people for professional success.

- Byron Garrett has committed his life to helping youth. He is a former K-8 school principal who was appointed by The White House as co-convenor of the Helping America’s Youth initiative. He also served as a lead strategist and planner for NBC News’ Education Nation. He was recently named to The Root 100, which recognizes emerging leaders under 45 who are making extraordinary contributions. He will inspire students with his dynamic message.
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2015 Alabama JLDC – October 19-20

- Kevin Wanzer is known for empowering audiences, one laugh at a time. His ability to make people giggle served him well when he worked on the staff of The David Letterman Show. His message encourages audiences to discover their hidden talents, embrace diversity, and just celebrate the laughter in us all.

- The U.S. Army’s Sonic Fusion Performance Team will entertain students during the opening session of the JLDC! Sonic Fusion is the newest R&B and pop fusion group of the Army Material Command Band. Students at the JLDC will be entertained by the group, but will also be inspired by the members’ personal stories of how they found a great way to utilize their professional talents though their service to country.

This promises to be Alabama’s best JLDC yet! To see the full schedule of conference events, visit [http://www.alabamajldc.org/schedule/](http://www.alabamajldc.org/schedule/).

CARCAM and GO BUILD have partnered with the Alabama State Department of Education to sponsor this event. Over 100 business organizations are participating and showcasing their top career opportunities to students attending this event. A full list of JLDC partners is available at [http://www.alabamajldc.org/partners/](http://www.alabamajldc.org/partners/).

FYI: A Workforce Panel Discussion with Top State and National Leaders

Dr. Philip Cleveland, Deputy State Superintendent for Alabama Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development, will lead a panel discussion with education, workforce, and economic development leaders focused on career readiness and the best ways to equip Alabama’s future workforce.

Panelists will include:

- Carol E. Clarke - Regions Financial Education Institute
- Molly Cagle – Manufacture Alabama, Director of External Affairs
- Bill Taylor – President, Economic Development Partnership of Alabama

This discussion will be held in the BJCC East Ballroom starting at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Members of the media will have an opportunity to interview panel participants starting at 11:30 a.m. in the BJCC East Ballroom.

Additional Background Information about Alabama JLDC

The state student organizations participating in the JLDC are DECA, FBLA-PBL, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, SkillsUSA, TSA, JAG, and JROTC.

To learn more about these organizations, please visit [http://alcareertech.org/stu_org.html](http://alcareertech.org/stu_org.html).

To arrange an interview with JLDC participants or presenters or to learn more about the educational opportunities offered by Alabama Career Tech, contact Craig Collins, Alabama JLDC Coordinator, at (334) 353-8387 or visit [www.alabamajldc.org](http://www.alabamajldc.org).

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