FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 2014

CONTACT: Communications
comm@alsde.edu

ALABAMA’S JAG PROGRAM WINS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD;
A BEST PRACTICE IN REDUCING THE DROPOUT RATE

Montgomery, Ala. – Many states across the nation are focusing more of their efforts on increasing graduation rates. Our state’s Jobs for Alabama’s Graduates (JAG) program was recognized for exceeding national performance outcomes.

Alabama received the 2014 Jobs for America’s Graduates National 5-of-5 Award. Alabama was one of only twelve states across America to receive this distinction.

This national award recognizes states that exceed the national targeted 90 percent graduation rates, 60 percent job placement goals, and 80 percent positive outcomes which includes employment, postsecondary enrollment or military.

Jobs for America’s Graduates is one of the nation’s largest models for at-risk and disadvantaged young people who receive school-to-career program services. Over 30 states are members of the Jobs for America’s Graduates network. The organization tracks state’s performance through the Electronic National Database Management System (e-NDMS).

“Receiving this award validates that the Alabama State Department of Education is providing JAG Career Specialist with the technical assistance and training needed to make a positive impact on students,” says Alabama JAG Program Manager Mandy Nichols. “We are committed to continuing to provide technical assistance and training to help our programs positive outcomes and help Alabama achieve the goals of Plan 2020.”

Currently, Alabama’s JAG program is available in 16 school systems across the state:

- Attalla City – Etowah High School
- Bibb County – Bibb County Career Academy
- Cherokee County – Cherokee County Career Tech Center
- Covington County – Red Level High School; Straughn High School
- Crenshaw County – Brantley High School; Highland Home High School; Luverne High School
- Dallas County – Keith High School; Southside High School
- Escambia County – Escambia County Career Readiness Site
- Fairfield City – Fairfield Preparatory High School
- Franklin County – Phil Campbell High School; Tharptown High School
- Hale County – Hale County Technology Center
- Henry County – Headland High School
- Lauderdale County – Central High School; Lauderdale County High School; Wilson High School
- Montgomery County – Robert E. Lee High School
- Russell County – Russell County High School
- Sumter County – Sumter Central High School
- Troy City – Troy-Pike Center for Technology

–more–
JAG Career Specialist provide students with career preparation by teaching skills that will help students with effective job searches, setting long-term academic goals, time management, and practicing and perfecting employability skills and soft skills. In addition to the national goals, other components of the Alabama’s JAG program model are:

- Classroom instruction in over 40 employability and life skills
- Student mentoring, guidance, support, and tutorial assistance
- Student leadership development and postsecondary education placement services
- 12-month follow-up services for all students after graduation

To learn more about JAG or other opportunities offered by Alabama’s Career and Technical Education programs, contact JAG’s State Program Manager, Mandy Nichols, at (334) 353-1545 or visit www.jag.org.

###