



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



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 Interim State Superintendent  
 of Education

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**OVER 3,500 STUDENTS TRAVEL TO CAPITAL CITY FOR STATE'S  
 ANNUAL JLDC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**Montgomery, Ala.** – More than 3,500 Alabama high school students, from different communities across the state, are already working hard to prepare themselves for their futures. These students, their teachers, and parents will travel to Montgomery next week for two days of rigorous leadership study at the *2011 Joint Leadership Development Conference (JLDC)*, **September 26-27**.

JLDC, which began twelve years ago, is focused on preparing students for top leadership opportunities. During this conference, Alabama's seven different student organizations and *Jobs for Alabama's Graduates (JAG)* program, collaborate for one united event.

"We believe that every student must be fully prepared for a lifetime of success." said Alabama Career and Technical Education Student Organizations (CTSO) Coordinator, Craig Collins. "Students attending our conference at the Renaissance Montgomery Convention Center will have an opportunity to participate in more than *20 different workshops and interactive activities.*"

Nationally renowned motivational speaker, *Brad Barton*, will inspire students and teachers with his exciting presentation, which **incorporates spectacular illusions**. Students will also learn innovative leadership skills from one of America's top experts – *Rhett Laubach*. These dynamic speakers have shared their empowering presentations with thousands of students nationwide.

JLDC focuses on preparing students for **leadership, career, and postsecondary learning opportunities**. The organizations participating in JLDC this year are: *DECA* (Association of Business/Marketing Students); *JROTC* (Junior ROTC); *FBLA-PBL* (Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda); *FCCLA* (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America); *FFA*; *HOSA* (Health Occupations Students of America); *JAG*; *SkillsUSA*; and *TSA* (Technology Student Association).

**Conference Highlights**

Monday, September 26

- Pre-Registration (Renaissance Lobby) – 7:00 p.m.
- Greetings and Pre-Conference Opening Session (Exhibition Hall C) – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 27

- Registration – 8:00 a.m.
- Motivational Program and Opening General Session (Exhibition Hall C) – 9:15 a.m.
- Student and Advisor Workshops (various locations) – 10:15 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
- Closing General Session (Exhibition Hall C) – 3:15 p.m.

Some of the workshops that students will have an opportunity to attend are:

– more –

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- Know What? Bullying Hurts!
- Thinking on Your Feet – Succeeding at Impromptu Speaking
- Finding Money for College

Also, participants attending this year's conference will have a *chance to take a glimpse into the future*. Event sponsors, *Alabama Power* and *Manufacture Alabama* will be displaying some of their newest technology-based equipment. There will be **over 40 different national and local vendors** at this event.

**DECA** is a national organization devoted to the needs of high school and college students with an interest in business, marketing, and entrepreneurship. Since its establishment in 1946, DECA has started chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, and Germany.

**JROTC** teaches students the real value of personal responsibility, while instilling in them self-esteem, teamwork, and self-discipline. Its primary focus is "to motivate young people to be better citizens." Alabama's JROTC program prepares students for responsible leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as American citizens.

**FBLA-PBL** is a national organization devoted to preparing students for careers in business. Alabama has one of the largest memberships in the United States, with over 14,000 members.

**FCCLA** is devoted to preparing family and consumer sciences students for leadership and career success. Alabama has more than 11,000 members who enjoy the many benefits this organization offers. Since its founding in 1945, FCCLA has involved over 10 million students.

**FFA**, a national non-profit organization, devotes its efforts to preparing students for careers in agriscience occupations. It serves more than 495,000 high school, college, and professional members. Currently, Alabama has approximately 14,000 FFA members.

**HOSA**, since its inception in 1976, has grown to serve more than 65,000 members. Alabama's HOSA members are students who are committed to improving themselves, their schools, and communities through academic achievement and professional health-related skills.

**JAG** is a school-to-career transition program dedicated to helping students improve their employability and academic skills. Alabama's JAG program is affiliated with Jobs for America's Graduates, which is the nation's largest model for assisting students who receive school-to-career services. For the past three consecutive years, Alabama's JAG program has experienced over a *90 percent graduation rate* and an *80 percent student employment rate*.

**SkillsUSA** is devoted to preparing students for careers in technical, skilled, and service occupations. It serves more than 260,000 high school, college, and professional members and has the active support of over 1,000 national corporations, trade associations, and community-based organizations. Alabama has approximately 9,000 SkillsUSA members.

**TSA**, founded in 1967, is devoted to the needs of middle and high school students with an interest in technology, design, and engineering. TSA serves over 200,000 students in 47 states.

Currently, *two out of every three high school students* in Alabama participates in a career and technical education (CTE) program. These students explore career options in more than 300 courses, earn advanced diplomas, and receive college credit.

To arrange an *interview with JLDC participants or presenters*, or to learn more about the educational opportunities offered by Alabama CTE, contact Craig Collins, Alabama CTSO Coordinator, at (334) 353-8387.