



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# Lansing-Area Youth Shine at Statewide Conference

*Jobs for Michigan's Graduates honors LSD, Waverly students*

LANSING, Mich. — Students from the Capital Area Michigan Works! (CAMW!) Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) program were honored at Youth Solutions' statewide Career Development Conference (CDC) on April 30, held at Saginaw Valley State University. The event brings young participants from the JMG program together to demonstrate the career and workforce development skills they have learned throughout the year.

JMG is the flagship program of Youth Solutions, a nonprofit organization that aims to ensure every youth in Michigan has access to career-connected learning and graduates with an actionable plan for postsecondary success.

Among the attendees were about a dozen JMG students representing Lansing School District and Peckham Inc., which operate the JMG programming for CAMW!. These dedicated young individuals participated in a variety of career-based individual and team competitions, showcasing essential skills such as interviewing, problem-solving and teamwork.



Collectively, this group of young people earned multiple awards to their local programs, including **Leonardo Amador-Betancourt's** well-deserved recognition as Youth of the Year.

"JMG taught me how to be professional. It helped me to build confidence and be successful," **Leonardo** said. "My story shows that when students are given support and opportunity, they can rise above challenges. I'm honored to receive this award and to represent my community, my family and my country."

The award ceremony concluded the event, recognizing not only the day's competition winners, but also statewide Youth and Alumni of the Year, Exemplary Youth, and Notable Alumni Award recipients. Individuals were nominated for these awards by their JMG specialist based on their leadership, character, and commitment that define the core values of JMG.

Local youth recognized with statewide and regional awards:

- Statewide Award — JMG Youth of the Year  
*Awarded to two active JMG participants who demonstrate extraordinary commitment to both the program and their personal goals.*
  - **Leonardo Amador-Betancourt, Lansing School District**
  
- Statewide Award — Notable Alumni of the Year  
*Awarded to a JMG alumni who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, personal and professional development, and has made notable contributions to JMG.*
  - **August Doerr, Lansing School District**
  
- Regional Award — JMG Exemplary Youth of the Year  
*Recognizes one outstanding youth from each Prosperity Region.*
  - **Salomon Shabani, Waverly High School**
  
- Program-Level Awards — JMG Excellence in Youth Leadership  
*Celebrating students who go above and beyond in leadership and commitment.*
  - **Lex Braman, Clinton County Youth Services**



- **Sierra Johnson, Waverly High School**

Competition Highlights:

- **JMG Bowl**, a game show-style competition where teams compete against each other by answering JMG knowledge questions.
- **JMG Spotlight Video**, in which teams created a 30- to 90-second commercial for JMG.
- **JMG Influencer** encouraged individuals to create content for social media that creatively shared their JMG story.
- **Communicate to Create**, where teams of two to four worked together as writers and builders to write clear, step-by-step instructions and then rebuild the object using only the written instructions.
- **Prep to Impress**, where individuals showcased their career aspirations by conducting mock professional interviews. **Symphony Horn, Lansing School District, 1st Place.**
- **Product Design**, where teams were given common items and had 30 minutes to design a product, create a marketing pitch and then give a three-minute presentation to judges.

The event was made possible with support from Saginaw Valley State University, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and the Michigan Health & Hospital Association.

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**ABOUT CAMW!**

*Capital Area Michigan Works!, a proud partner of the American Job Center network, connects with businesses to develop recruiting and retention strategies and strengthens the local workforce by*



*enhancing education and career opportunities for job seekers. For more information, call (517) 492-5500 or go to [www.camw.org](http://www.camw.org).*

## **ABOUT YOUTH SOLUTIONS**

*Youth Solutions aims to ensure every youth in Michigan has access to career-career connected learning and graduates with a plan for postsecondary success. Since 2008, Youth Solutions has impacted 39,000 youth, ages 11-24, across Michigan. For more information about Youth Solutions or to become a partner, go to [www.ouryouthsolutions.org](http://www.ouryouthsolutions.org).*