

# The Wellmark Foundation

## SUPPORTING JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES

[www.wellmark.com/foundation](http://www.wellmark.com/foundation)

Since its inception in 1991, The Wellmark Foundation has been addressing Social Determinants of Health by **awarding nearly \$58 million in grant and special project funding** to initiatives that positively impact the well-being of Iowans and South Dakotans.

Initiatives like Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) remove barriers and provide support services for students of great promise. A state-based national nonprofit organization, JAG has a footprint in 40 states helping students succeed in school and on-the-job. Beginning in 2021, The Wellmark Foundation began providing support for Jobs for America's Graduates South Dakota (JAG-SD) and Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG). The funding provided by The Wellmark Foundation supports two annual development conferences in both Iowa and South Dakota.

This gives JAG students from school districts across each state a chance to connect with business and higher education leaders, demonstrate their leadership skills and compete in core competency areas.

During the Spring Career Development Conference in Iowa, The Wellmark Foundation worked with statewide health care systems and iJAG staff to create a hands-on experience and expose students to high-demand health care occupations. Representatives from The Wellmark Foundation, health care systems and health science specialty schools provided iJAG students with demonstrations and opportunities to learn more about various careers in health care. iJAG students were able to make valuable connections with local health care professionals they otherwise may not have had the chance to meet, and they were able to secure job shadow opportunities and internships during the conference.



### THE WELLMARK FOUNDATION IMPACT:

# \$58M

Funding grants and special projects in Iowa and South Dakota (1991 – present)

# 98%

Student Graduation Rate—  
Iowa Jobs for America's  
Graduates

"When an organization like The Wellmark Foundation makes a big statement in a small way, like sponsoring our conference, it means a lot. Anytime an organization can see themselves in the work we do and know that they can have impact and that they can make dreams happen, there's nothing better or bigger than that."

– Laurie Phelan, president and CEO, iJAG

