

OCTOBER 2016



A Message from the Executive Director

We are beginning to approach the holiday season, a time of year when we reflect on how we can give back to causes that matter to us. I am grateful that Just-A-Start has such a strong network of supporters who are concerned with improving the well-being of others in Cambridge and nearby communities, as demonstrated in our recently released [2015 Annual Report](#). We hope you will continue to extend your generosity and support JAS again this year, so we can continue providing services to increase the economic security of our neighbors.


UPCOMING EVENTS


NOVEMBER 1, 2016, 7:30 AM to 3:45 PM, DCU CENTER, WORCESTER: JAS will be presenting on STEM-focused workforce development.

NOVEMBER 3, 2016, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, 1035 CAMBRIDGE STREET: Just-A-Start Reception providing an overview of our plans and strategic goals.

NOVEMBER 29, 2016: #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by social media. Mark your calendar and consider a gift to JAS!



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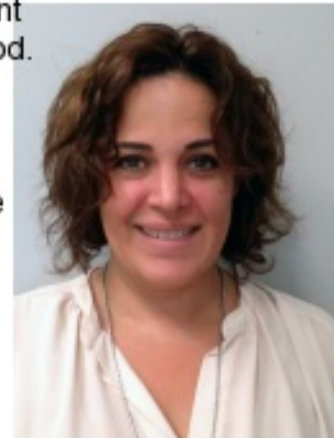
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Massachusetts STEM Summit

Gina Plata, JAS's Director of Education and Training, will be a panelist at a breakout session during the Massachusetts STEM Summit 2016 on November 1, 2016 at the DCU Center, Worcester. The annual Massachusetts STEM Summit promotes Science, Technology, Engineering, and math education and workforce development from early childhood through adulthood.

Now in its 13th year, the Summit convenes the state's educators, business leaders, policymakers, parents, students, and others to share strategies, initiatives, collaborations, and ideas. The theme for the 2016 Summit is "Building a Lifetime of Opportunity". JAS was invited by Shire to participate in the session, titled "Best Practices to Develop a Skilled Workforce through



Industry/Academia Partnerships". Gina will join other the panelists, Aron Clarke, Manufacturing Training Leaders, Shire (moderator); Bruce Van Dyke, Chair of the Biotechnology Compliance Program, Quincy College; Marybeth Campbell, Executive Director, Skill Works; and Paul Brassil, Vice President, Business Technology Solutions, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

Board of Directors Updates

JAS's Board of Director approved two new Board members at its September meeting! We are excited to welcome them to JAS. Here is a little background on them:

- Lisa Drapkin is real estate agent at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, based in their Cambridge Massachusetts Avenue office and serving Cambridge, Somerville, Arlington, and Medford. Lisa has been working in real estate in Cambridge for over 20 years, giving her a deep knowledge of the community, and the issues people face finding homes. She previously served on the Board of MassEquality for over six years, gaining extensive experience in nonprofit oversight. Lisa lives in the Riverside area of Cambridge, where she owns a 2-family home. Lisa received her MBA from Babson College and her Bachelors in Marketing from Georgetown University.
- Michael Kuhn is First Vice President in Commercial Lending at Cambridge Savings Bank and helps to continue JAS's longstanding partnership with the Bank. Michael has been with Cambridge Savings for almost 10 years and previously worked for Rockland Trust Company and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. He received a B.S. in Finance from Rowan University and an Associate's degree in Computer Science from Camden County College.

Renewed and New Support for JAS

The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced the award of \$1.1 million to JAS YouthBuild, as a part of \$80.3 million in YouthBuild grants to 77 programs across the country. In all, these grants are supporting education and workforce training for about 5,000 at-risk youth. JAS is extremely excited to have been awarded funding through this highly-competitive grant program, demonstrating the positive impact our program can have on youth form across the Metro North region.



JAS YouthBuild was also recently received a grant of \$25,000 from Wells Fargo. Wells Fargo's grant making is a part of their commitment to making sure that cities they serve are strong, vibrant places to live, work, and grow. JAS is thrilled to continue this funding partnership for a second year.

JAS has been awarded a grant \$20,000 by Winchester Co-Operative Bank. This new funding partnership will also be taking advantage of JAS's Community Investment Tax Credit (CITC) program, providing the Bank a tax credit from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts worth 50% of its donation. We are excited about the Bank's support of our mission and work in the Metro North region.



For more of the latest updates on Just-A-Start visit www.justastart.org/news

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