ABOUT ME

Jan Ennis

I'm a nonprofit executive, U.S. Army veteran, and community volunteer who lives in Spring Lake with my family. For more than a decade, I've helped young people see pathways from the classroom to good careers, working alongside the schools, employers, and funders who make that possible.

I'm now looking for my next leadership role with a nonprofit or community-based organization, here in West Michigan.

My path

Service has been the thread running through my career.

Classroom and country	I started as a middle school teacher, where I learned that kids rise to clear expectations and real care. I then served six years in the U.S. Army where I deployed twice in support of the Global War on Terror.
Youth Solutions 2013–2018	At this Michigan statewide youth organization, I grew the number of young people we served from 481 to 2,330 in three years. I also served as Interim Executive Director.
LightCorp 2018–2021	As a Strategic Account Manager at this Grand Haven manufacturer, I managed accounts representing more than 40% of company revenue. I also helped write the company's 3–5-year growth plan. Those years taught me to see partnerships from the business side of the table.
Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) 2021–2026	As Senior Vice President, I helped lead a national school-to-career network of 30+ affiliates in 31 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Together they served 88,000+ young people through 1,753 programs in nearly 1,000 communities.

Executive MBA, Michigan State University · Executive Certificate in Leadership, University of Notre Dame · BA, San Diego State University

Rooted in the Tri-Cities

This community is home, and it's where I give my time.

Spring Lake Schools Foundation
Board Member since 2024

Spring Lake Public Schools Youth Basketball Program
Volunteer head coach, grades 3–6, since 2024

Tri-Cities Family YMCA Youth Basketball League
Volunteer head coach, ages 5–10, since 2021

Spring Lake Township Recreation Committee
Committee member, 2021–2024

What I bring

Connecting employers and talent

My team filled 4,100 roles for high-demand Michigan employers, 128% of our goal. I also led our participation in Manufacturing Day and Careers in Energy Week, and worked with Operating Engineers 324 and Associated Builders and Contractors to introduce students to the skilled trades.

Partnerships that last

I've built working relationships with school districts from Grand Rapids to Benton Harbor, and with national organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the College Board.

Funding that sustains the mission

I conducted testimony and youth-led advocacy that won a Michigan nonprofit its first state budget allocation, $3.1 million. At JAG, I led a new fee model that all 30+ partners adopted and that now generates 32% of national revenue.

Systems that keep quality high

I rebuilt JAG's national accreditation process, cutting requirements from 50+ to 12 focused on program quality and impact. I also moved the full network onto Salesforce on schedule.

Steady leadership

The Army taught me to stay calm under pressure. I listen first, act on what I hear, and bring humor and humility to the hard days.

How partner leaders rated my work in a recent 360° survey

92%
Trusted Partnership: average score of 4.60 out of 5

85%
Satisfied or Very Satisfied overall

100%
Professionalism: rated 4 or 5 out of 5

"A true servant leader: supportive, grounded, and always mindful of the needs of the team."

James Wall, Founder & CEO, Moxie for Kids

"One of the greatest gifts a colleague can offer is knowing they are in your corner, and Jan was that person for me. During my first years as Executive Director of JAG-NH, he was always a phone call away, ready to listen, share his expertise, and help me work through challenges. His mentorship made a lasting impact on me, and I am truly grateful for the difference he made in my journey."

Nick Resca, Executive Director, Jobs for America's Graduates - New Hampshire

"Jan builds relationships that last. Partners, funders, and staff on the ground trust him because he listens, follows through, and brings people together around a shared goal. He's a strategic thinker who looks at every decision from all angles, short-term and long-term, and balances big ideas with what's actually achievable. He made sure the team only promised what we could deliver, and funders trusted us because of it. Any organization would be lucky to have him."

Mary Fowler, Director of Grant Development, Jobs for America's Graduates

Let's connect

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After years of supporting programs across the country, I'd love to put this experience to work closer to home. If your organization is looking for a leader, or you know someone I should meet, I'd welcome a conversation.