Creating a New Future for USDA Forest Job Corps

Diana Trujillo, Acting National Director, Job Corps National Office

As our listening sessions end, I want to thank each of you for your candor and willingness to share information to help us better understand our culture and working environment to make needed shifts. I am touched and inspired by you and your commitment to providing the students entrusted to us with pathways to success. Your dedication gives me the resolve needed to address concerns raised, and to take the necessary actions to bring vision, stability, and visibility to our Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Program.

I am looking forward to engaging you in declaring a future for us to live into. We have initiated a strategic planning process that will engage internal and external stakeholders in transformational areas that include our Work Environment, Safety and Security (which includes safety issues related to our vacancies), our Onboard Strength, Performance, and Relevancy - within USDA Forest Service and Department of Labor as well as within industry and our communities.

I would like to hear your thoughts and ideas on how we can strengthen and transform our program in these areas and will reaching out to you soon for your input.

I hope you enjoy the stories shared within this issue of our newsletter as much as I have. Each story reconnects me to the value of the work we do and why we serve our nation through the Job Corps Civilian Conservation Program. I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve you as your Acting National Director.

Thank you for your service, and enjoy the newsletter!

U.S. Forest Service Civilian Conservation Centers Continue a Proud Tradition of Volunteer Service

Alicia D. Bennett, Public Affairs Officer, Job Corps National Office

The language establishing Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (JCCCCs) states centers “shall provide in addition to academics, career and technical education and training, and workforce preparation skills training, programs of work experience to conserve, develop, or manage public natural resources or public recreational areas or to develop community projects in the public interest.”

The ending message of this sentence is sometimes overlooked.

Across the nation, Job Corps students devote countless hours to improving the lives of their fellow citizens and communities—volunteer service that many of the students will continue long after they graduate.

Stories in this edition of the JCCCC Courier feature the commitment of JCCCC students joining together to make positive changes in their communities in the early months of 2018.
Civilian Conservation Center Students Exhibit the Power of Volunteerism

Oconaluftee Job Corps students Zynell Perkins, Matthew Sullivan and Amy Bryan have earned their Public Lands Corps certificates working as timber cruisers in the Savannah River Site Timber program in Forest Service R8. Photo by Oconaluftee Job Corps.

Wolf Creek Job Corps students help pick-up some of the 2,520 pounds of trash along the South Umpqua River in Stewart Park. Photo by Wolf Creek Job Corps.

Oconaluftee Job Corps Academic Elite Committee held its first meeting and community service project on March 1, 2018. Students and staff served a restaurant style meal to over 120 clients at "The Community Table" in Sylva, North Carolina. (L-R): Brian Terrell, Jim Nutty, Paige Christie, Cheryl Osborne, Justine Rummage, Tatyana Thomas, Joyce Messer, Clemence Nyiramahirwe, Donna McCulloch. Photo by Oconaluftee Job Corps.

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.
Mahatma Gandhi
Civilian Conservation Center Students Exhibit the Power of Volunteerism

Twenty two Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students celebrated the Youth 2 Youth Martin Luther King Day of Service at the United Methodist Church in Franklin, North Carolina on January 15, 2018. Photo by LBJ Job Corps.

Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (JCCCC) participated in the Franklin Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet on Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Job Corps students volunteered as "lunch buddies" at the Poplar Bluff Kindergarten Center for Read Across America Day, celebrated on Dr. Seuss' birthday. The students then traveled to the Poplar Bluff public library to organize book shelves, set up its theater room, and pack Storytime Anytime craft/activity bags. Photo by Brittanee Ellerbe.

The awards banquet program listed LBJ Job Corps as a "Donor" for the Chamber of Commerce along with being a "Gold Sponsor" all for the chamber’s projects in the community over the past year for various events and projects.

Students Austin Kowasleski, Dejeanai Pennamon and Nicholas Sanche and Support Services Supervisor Michelle Williams, Residential Manager Danny Davis, and Acting Center Director Jerry Buschmann represented LBJ Job Corps Center at the awards banquet.

Congratulations goes to the culinary arts vocational trade and all of the students and staff on the center for the work they accomplished for the community in 2017. Great job LBJ Job Corps!

ANA CONDA JOB CORPS GIVES 129 GIFTS OF LIFE THROUGH BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you for sponsoring the recent Red Cross blood drive at Anaconda Job Corps. Congratulations! For your first drive, the donor goal of 35 was surpassed and there were 46 people who presented resulting in 43 productive units—123% of goal! The difference between presented (donors that came to donate) and productive (final products) reflects donors that were not able to donate (deferrals) and QNS’s (quantity not sufficient). QNS happens when for some reason the flow of blood into the bag stops or slows to the point where the bag is not able to be filled. There was 1 deferral and 2 QNS at your drive.

The units collected were sent to Great Falls and have been tested and manufactured into products for our Montana Hospitals. From there the products are taken to our hospitals as they need them. Since we manufacture 3 life-saving products from each unit, there will be 129 gifts of life for our Montana Hospital patients thanks to your donors.

Shari Hunter Brownlee
Donor Recruitment Account Manager
Lewis and Clark Blood Services Region, Helena, Montana

On Friday, March 2, 2018, Mingo Job Corps students volunteered for the Martin Luther King Clean-Up Service Day along the South Umpqua River in Stewart Park. Over 60 volunteers helped pick up 2,520 pounds of trash. Photo by Umpqua Watersheds.

Wolf Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students volunteered for the Martin Luther King Clean-Up Service Day along the South Umpqua River in Stewart Park. Over 60 volunteers helped pick up 2,520 pounds of trash. Photo by Umpqua Watersheds.

Over 129 gifts of life were sent to Great Falls thanks to your generosity! Great job LBJ Job Corps!

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Schenck Job Corps Graduates Honored with the 2017 Region 8 Regional Forester “Promoting Recreation” Award
Joseph C. Acevedo, Center Standards Officer, Schenck Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center

Schenck Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (JCCCC) is proud to announce that graduates Ben Jarrett and Joe Chavez, who served on Public Lands Corps (PLC) assignments on the El Yunque National Forest, have been honored with a 2017 Region 8 Regional Forester “Promoting Recreation” award.

El Yunque National Forest Partnership Coordinator Juana Rosas shared that Jarrett and Chavez served the community well as trail ambassadors for El Toro Wilderness Trail. “Ben and Joe did an amazing job. They worked really hard and earned it!”

Jarrett, 20 years old, served as a crew leaders on the El Yunque National Forest recreation crew. He aspires to be a religious debate expert and wants to actively engage in mission based ministries.

Twenty year old Chavez also served as a crew leaders on El Yunque National Forest Recreation Crew and now is going to pursue a career at El Yunque National Forest. “Working as a supervisor has really been a wonderful experience. Seeing the kids grow so much, in such a short time is something I will never forget. This job has shown me what career I am destined for,” exclaimed Chavez.

While enrolled in Schenck Job Corps, Jarrett earned certification in carpentry and Chavez earned a vocational certificate in the building maintenance trade.

Both participated in Schenck’s Wilderness Discovery program, demonstrating a passion for the outdoors while displaying outstanding leadership and citizenship skills.

Jarret and Chavez volunteered many hours on the Pisgah District of the Pisgah National Forest and the Shining Rock Wilderness. They helped install several key public information signs and dissembled over 71 illegal camp fire rings.

Schenck’s Wilderness Discovery program provided Jarrett and Chavez great training opportunities to work alongside Wilderness Ranger David Finnan. Working with Katie Currier from Southern Appalachian Stewards (SAWS) they obtained cross-cut saw certification.

Jarrett and Chavez entered Schenck’s forestry program and seized the opportunity when they were offered PLC assignments on the El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico.

On January 18, 2018 Schenck Job Corps students and staff gathered at a special assembly to present Jarrett and Chavez with their awards and congratulate them on an outstanding job.

Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps Student Recognized as Franklin Rotary Club’s “Student of the Month”
Jerry F. Buschmann, Acting Center Director, Lyndon B. Johnson Civilian Conservation Job Corps Center

The Franklin Rotary Club presented Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (JCCCC) student David S. Hall, with the Franklin Rotary Club “Student of the Month” award on January 24, 2018.

David is 25 years old and joined LBJ Job Corps on January 17, 2017.

David has completed forklift certification and obtained his Occupational Safety and Health Administration certification. While completing LBJ’s union painting vocational trade,

David earned his high school equivalency credential through Southwestern Community College.

David completed his work-based training at Myer’s Painting located in Franklin, North Carolina.

David is a gold student who completed Certified Leadership Training which qualifies him to serve as student dorm leader for Washington Hall.

David will pursue a union painting job near Atlanta, Georgia after he graduates. David is originally from Raleigh, North Carolina.

LBJ is proud of David and his accomplishments and thanks the Rotary Club in recognizing him as their “Student of the Month”.

(L-R): Rotarian and Macon County Commissioner Gary Shields, LBJ student David S. Hall, and LBJ Acting Center Director Jerry Buschmann. Photo by LBJ Job Corps.
News from the World of Civilian Conservation Centers

BLACKWELL JOBS CORPS HELPS YOUNG MAN REALIZE A NEW LIFE - WXPR

...Blackwell opened as a Job Corps center in 1965 near Laona, Wisconsin in Forest county. Since then, over 15,000 students have benefited from the federal scholarships offered through Blackwell Job Corps. Nationally, Job Corps serves approximately 60,000 youths annually through 119 Job Corps centers. We hear from one Blackwell student who found Job Corps and has found a path to a better future.

Ken Krall spoke with Jerrell Jones....

Job Corps National Office Assistant Director Steve Lenzo retired from the U.S. Forest Service on March 31, 2018. We want to thank Steve for his many years of great leadership, mentorship, and friendship. Steve possesses a rare combination of vision, fairness, and understanding. We thank him for all his has done and all he has taught us. The Forest Service Job Corps program sends its very best wishes for a happy retirement.

On Saturday, January 20, 2018, seventeen students in Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center’s Wilderness Discovery Program learned how to groom, feed, saddle, bridle, and ride horses. It was truly life changing for these students. Photo by Starr Farrell.
**Oconaluftee Job Corps Student Faviola Mendez Demonstrates the Drive Needed to Succeed**

Like all Civilian Conservation Centers (JCCCCs), the mission of the Oconaluftee Job Corps is to train young people with vocational skills.

The first step in that process is the recruitment of students with the drive and commitment to change their lives for the better.

Faviola Mendez, enrolled in the certified nursing assistant vocational training, is such a student.

Within one month of beginning her work-based learning at the Blue Ridge on the Mountain Nursing Home, Faviola was named employee of the month on February 9, 2018.

Faviola is a great leader and an exceptional person who has made a positive impact both at her job and Oconaluftee Job Corps.

**Weber Basin Job Corps Scan GIS Aerial Photography Records for Forest Nationwide**

Weber Basin Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (JCCCC) office administration students Connor Best, William Davis, Isaiah Guarneros and Savannah Thalman recently completed a Geographic Information System (GIS) project that will prove significant to the U.S. Forest Service.

The students scanned GIS aerial photography records for all Forest Service regions across the nation into PDF files.

Forest Service Region 4 IT Support Manager Gary Nebeker visited Weber Basin to ask for the assistance of its students.

GIS aerial photography views provide land images that are not possible to capture on a ground level. These views provide a way to view and capture the entire scope of a landscape and are an excellent planning tool.

The records span from 1956 through 2010. The records are scheduled to be archived due to the switch from film to digital technology and the PDF formats will be publically available.

“I have distributed the Historical Aerial Photography film reports to the regions and to the Farm Service Agency’s Aerial Photo Field Office. In each case as they have started to use them, I have gotten positive comments on the quality of the scanning work.”

Nebeker also passed on words from Sherry Holyoak, an employee in the Forest Service Aerial Photography Field Office, who said, “They did a nice job, very well done!”

Well done Connor William, Isaiah and Savannah.

**Mingo Job Corps Youth 2 Youth International Program Assists Hope International**

On February 19, 2018, Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center’s (JCCCC) Youth 2 Youth International (Y2Y) members volunteered at the Hope International warehouse.

Hope International operates thrift stores and the proceeds go directly back into the ministry. Donations to the stores have to be sorted and checked for a good condition and then boxed, labeled, and placed on pallets.

Mingo’s Y2Y students assisted employees to sort through donations.

Hope International provides disaster relief to families throughout Mingo Job Corps local community areas, as well as sending relief in these forms to overseas communities.

In 2017, Hope International sent meals to Texas and Florida as part of Hurricane relief efforts.

Mingo Job Corps students worked hard for two hours and were happy with their experience giving back to their communities.
Massey Tuckpointing Partners with Mingo Job Corps Center To Train the Next Generation of Masons
Chris Dover, Brick Masonry Instructor, Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center

Massey Tuckpointing and Masonry, a respected tuckpointing company based in St. Louis, Missouri, has created a partnership with Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (JCCCC) to help train the next generation of masonry professionals.

On February 28th, 2018, Ryan Massey, of Massey Tuckpointing and Masonry invited Mingo Job Corps brick masonry program to a career day at his St. Louis Missouri office.

Brick masonry students participated in a hands-on workshop that incorporated a series of stations that allowed operators to conduct different tasks using a tuckpointer.

Massey Tuckpointing and Masonry is in its 16th year of business and has been awarded the BBB Torch Award and was recently named a St. Louis Top Home Expert by St. Louis in Home Magazine.

The company has agreed to offer 90 day work-based learning opportunities to two qualified Mingo Job Corps brick masonry students. The students will be paid $15 per hour and will be allowed to work a maximum of 60 hours per week.

"We saw an amazing opportunity to help a group of young, motivated adults learn valuable skills and gain real-world hands-on experience," said Ryan Massey.

"It’s a win-win situation—we get to reach young, motivated men and women that are hungry for work, and the Mingo Job Corps is able to help their students gain marketable skills and gainful employment."

"The career day that Massey sponsored entailed various work stations that gave our students a taste of a real work environment and got them excited about a career in masonry," stated Mingo Job Corps Masonry Instructor Matthew Couch.
The Forest Service is facing critical shortages of workers. Job Corps is an ideal source from which to recruit and improve the diversity of its permanent workforce. The partnership between the forests and Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (JCCCCs) can benefit both parties through development of Work-Based Learning (WBL) opportunities that provide on-the-job training for students and help the Forest Service meet mission critical project goals. Looking to add professional, trained, youthful, diverse staff to your project or office? Forest Service JCCCC students or Mobile Corps can be a valuable addition to your next project.

Mobile Corps projects are larger scale, multi-student and/or multi-center projects. These projects have ranged from painting/maintenance at Grey Towers National Historical Site to building smaller buildings and campsite projects, and construction of ranger stations and staff housing. A formal application process must be completed for project consideration.

Job Corps students are eligible for federal employment. As students they can be hired using the Pathways Program. They may also qualify for the Public Lands Corps Act (PLC). Students are able to compete through the traditional federal hiring; however, using these two authorities can expedite JCCCC student hiring. Contact Cyndi Szymanski at 303-275-5074 or e-mail at: ceszymanski@fs.fed.us for additional information.

What Can Civilian Conservations Centers Do For Your National Forests and Grasslands?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Work</th>
<th>Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Forest Systems</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recreation</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail construction, trail maintenance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation site improvements: painting (signs, picnic tables), facilities maintenance, construction, brush removal, mowing, trailhead maintenance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Installation of picnic tables, fire rings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiosk construction and installation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Forestry</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-commercial thinning, tree planting, timber marking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream maintenance - gabion installations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery work - tree lifting and packing, seedling planting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cone collection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wildlife/Fisheries/Hydrology/Soils</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install inserts for Red Cockcaded Woodpecker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundary marking of Red Cockcaded Woodpecker area</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Snag/grouse drumming log creation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-story removal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabion installations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infestation surveys</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Engineering</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carpentry, painting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy equipment repair and maintenance, auto maintenance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Electrical, plumbing, welding</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brick and concrete masonry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fashion stone foundations for forest portal signs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stream inventory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundary/landline location, marking, inspection and maintenance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Maintenance - sawing and chipping for site clearance on FS roads</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greening of Job Corps Centers, research stations, and district offices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Front desk operator / services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data input, clerical, computer installation (Job Corps IT Team), record keeping</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>State and Private Forestry</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire suppression, rehabilitation, mop-up, catering</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prescribed fire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data collection</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td></td>
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The Oconaluftee Job Corps students participating in its forestry conservation and firefighting training program. Photo by Oconaluftee Job Corps.


Mingo Job Corps students participating as a “lunch buddy” at the Poplar Bluff Kindergarten Center for Read Across America Day. Photo by Brittanee Ellerbe.

Centennial Job Corp firefighters take a break on a fireline. Photo by Centennial Job Corps.
1964 – 2017
Conserving America's
Natural Resources
for over 50 Years

Job Corps is the nation’s largest residential, educational, and career technical training program that prepares economically disadvantaged youth, ranging in age from 16 to 24, for productive employment.

USDA Forest Service operates 25 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (JCCCCs) with a capacity to house, educate, and train over 4,000 enrollees.

Students attend academic and vocational classes and learn critical life skills in preparation for long-term employment, careers in natural resources, continued education or military service.

The JCCCCs provide a unique opportunity for at-risk youth to take control of and steer their lives in a positive direction and contribute to the conservation of the nation’s public natural resources.

JCCCCs are associated with national forests or grasslands and are operated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service in partnership with the Department of Labor (DOL).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

Alicia D. Bennett
Public Affairs Officer/Editor
Job Corps National Office
1617 Cole Boulevard, Building 17,
Lakewood, CO 80401
Phone: 303-275-5934
E-mail: adbennett@fs.fed.us

To subscribe to the Courier, send your e-mail address to: adbennett@fs.fed.us

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