



DECEMBER 2021

# THE COURIER

FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS

Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards



(L-R) Jacobs Creek Job Corps CCC welding students Bradley Owens and Brandon Coe pose with a "Robot Futurama" robot created in Metal Inert Gas (MIG) classes. MIG welding uses an arc welding process that joins two metals. It is a fast, cost-efficient process in widespread use across numerous manufacturing industries. USDA Forest Service photo by Kimberlie Peterson.

## A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS



Harris Maceo, Deputy National Director, JCNO.

My fellow Job Corps colleagues, on behalf of our National Office leadership team, I hope that all of you had a great Thanksgiving weekend among family and friends.

This week marks a major milestone for our Civilian Conservation Centers (CCCs). We now have 17 out of our 24 Civilian Conservation Centers open for business!

Our other seven centers are on pause due to lack of wellness staff or challenges related to community threat levels. However, we expect those centers to be allowed to resume operations soon. The re-opening of our centers could not have happened without the efforts that each one of you have made.

For almost two years our Job Corps centers have operated through distance and hybrid learning and restricted enrollment. In addition, our CCCs have maintained strict pandemic protocols throughout for all staff and students and those protocols seem to be working considering that we have remained relatively safe from major COVID outbreaks. This has all happened because of the hard work each one of you do daily. I want to thank you and congratulate you on this success.

In September of this year the Department of Labor (DOL) agreed to authorize a pilot for the Forest Service to contract for our own Outreach and Admission, and Career

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— HARRIS MACEO

Transitional Services (OA/CTS) to recruit and place Forest Service Job Corps students. These OA/CTS contracts have been something both DOL and our agency have been talking about for several years. The pilot will start with a contract focusing on the DOL Philadelphia region and the other four regions soon thereafter.

Although many challenges remain ahead of us, these are exciting times for our CCCs. I want to personally acknowledge how much of a difference your hard work makes to our Job Corps program and agency.

I am so proud to be part of our Job Corps family. I know without a doubt, together we will keep up the great work for many more years to come. I wish each of you and your loved ones a holiday season filled with peace, health, and goodwill.

Remember, we are all in this together and together we can get through these challenging times. Happy Holidays!!!

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **At-a-glance:** Visit the [OC Editorial Calendar](#) for upcoming agency-wide communication activities.
- **Combined Federal Campaign (CFC):** Check out the Campaign's [Cause of the Week](#).
- **Visit Us:** Job Corps National Office [SharePoint](#) site.

## EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE



*Frenchburg Job Corps CCC Brick and Block student Andres Wilson and Carpentry students Avery Lobrutto and Kieran Ingram help lay foundation blocks for the new welding building on September 17, 2021. USDA Forest Service photo by Trena Adams.*

## FRENCHBURG JOB CORPS CCC UBC CARPENTRY PROGRAM PROVIDES WELDING CERTIFICATION

It began as a simple idea. The Frenchburg Job Corps CCC United Brotherhood of Carpentry (UBC) pre-apprenticeship program would use the National Training Contractor equipment replacement fund to purchase a virtual welder to train students and make graduates more competitive as they entered apprenticeships.

Instructors Duane Wessel and Terry Justice met with UBC Director of Education Jerry Burke to craft an agreement wherein students they determined capable of passing a practical welding test would be given the opportunity. Burke sends UBC Apprenticeship Instructors to Frenchburg with official American Welding Society (AWS) test plates to test the students. This training not only opens additional career opportunities for students, but it also helps address the desperate need of UBC Millwrights, Piledrivers, and Interior Systems Carpenters for AWS certified welders.

Frenchburg students who complete the pre-apprentice carpentry program are eligible for immediate employment as second year apprentices. Graduates with the welding certification can earn seventy percent or more of a journeyman's wage.

To support this effort, Frenchburg Job Corps students from various trades are constructing a welding building from the ground up with the space and equipment to conduct practical welding tests. This project is yet another example of the creativity and resourcefulness of Frenchburg Job Corps instructors to ensure their students learn their trade through a combination of work-based learning, classroom instruction and field training. UBC places great pride in ensuring that its members stay on top of advances within the construction industry.

*The mission of the 24 Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers is to train eligible youth ages 16 to 24 with educational, social, and vocational skills while assisting in the conservation of the nation's public natural resources.*

## MEET VENORRIS WEBB-DEESLINE CASS JOB CORPS CCC



Venorris Webb-Deesline is excited about the future Cass Job Corps CCC. Formerly the Guidance Counselor/ Student EEO Specialist, she accepted the position of Liaison Specialist on November 22, 2021. "I'm super excited about this

new opportunity," says Webb-Deesline. "I'm a connector, I love people and not enough people know about this program. My wheels are already rolling."

Hired in 2010 as the Trainee Employee Assistant Program Specialist, Webb-Deesline appreciates past and present center leadership who've seized opportunities to mentor staff. "Cass is like a family. Fellow employees celebrate my successes," says Webb-Deesline. She is grateful that Cass Job Corps Residential Living Manager Kenith Deesline, her husband, introduced her to Job Corps.

Job Corps keeps Webb-Deesline young in spirit. For her, knowing the barriers students face, watching their initial struggles, and then to see them walk across the graduation stage with their high school diploma, driver's license, and a job, is gratifying. "Just be good to people and goodness will come back to you," she says. "I live by that philosophy and that is what I tell my students."

Webb-Deesline has not allowed Job Corps' momentary challenges side-track her mission. "Job Corps staff must remember our 'WHY' and why we started in this business," she says. "There will always be ups and downs. We need to remember gratitude. We have the most amazing job to help and serve young people."



## STAY IN THE KNOW!

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- #forestservicejobcorps
- #jobcorpsfire

More exciting news can be found on our [Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers!](#) website!

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