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THE COURIER

FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS

Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards



(L) Management Analyst Cris Newton-Schlesselman shares information on education and training opportunities at Forest Service Job Corps Centers with eligible Afghan youth at a Safe Haven Career Fair at Ft. Bliss Army Base on December 15, 2021. The CCCs are committed to enrolling Afghan youth and hiring Afghan staff and honored to support the resettlement services the U.S. is providing to America's Afghan refugee population. USDA Forest Service photo.

HOW TO BE A GREAT LEADER

Webster's Dictionary defines leadership as "the ability



Daniel Lovato, Assistant Director,
Job Corps National Office.

of an individual or a group of individuals to influence and guide followers or other members of an organization." If there is one lesson that the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us, it is that our Civilian Conservation Centers are led by intelligent, adaptive leaders who are supported by dedicated staff.

Leaders are said to establish the vision and set the direction of an organization. I prefer to think of leadership a fluid, bidirectional process between leaders and followers. Leaders are found at all levels of an organization and at any given moment, a leader may become a follower and vice-versa. It is a given that leaders will always have different styles and personalities. But the most important aspect of a leader is what a leader does with his or her followers, who also come in many forms, with different styles and personalities.

In the movie Hoosiers, Gene Hackman plays Coach Norman Dale. "The team is the most important thing," he tells his players. For it to achieve success, it must be "five different players functioning as one." For his team to function as one, it is Dale's responsibility to set out a vision and expectations that his followers (players) buy into and adopt as their own.

When a band leader instructs his band to play classical music and they play jazz music, the resulting sound is likely to drive audiences away. If the band functions as one and

“ BELIEVING IN EACH OTHER AND BEING ON THE SAME TEAM IS WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR STUDENTS AND WILL BRING US GREAT SATISFACTION. . . ”
— DANIEL LOVATO

play from the same sheet music, the audience will linger to enjoy the concert.

For the past two years, the CCCs not only have had different sheet music, but were forced to write the songs at the same time. Initially students were placed in virtual learning. Next, they transitioned to a combination of remote and on-center learning. This disrupted center culture and stability, one of the most important benefits the CCCs offer students, was lost in this process.

After much changing of notes, changing instruments, and even shuffling roles, CCCs have found the sheet music necessary for success. This was due to an all-hands-on-deck effort from the entire center, with the leaders being followers and followers being leaders, regardless of title and grade, but having the common goal of being "One Team."

We are all both followers and leaders throughout our work lives. Believing in each other and being on the same team is what is best for our students and will bring us great satisfaction and allow us to achieve success in our mission. To be a great leader, you must also be a great follower.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **At-a-glance:** Visit the [OC Editorial Calendar](#) for upcoming agency-wide communication activities.
- **Leadership Corner:** Job Corps National Director Jerry Ingersoll shares his thoughts on [Equity: Serving the underserved throughout the pandemic](#).
- **Visit Us:** Job Corps National Office [SharePoint](#) site.

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE



(L-R) Blackwell Job Corps Acting Center Director Annie Schenkoske, Masonry Graduate and Union Tile Setter Journeyman Jye Jude, and International Masonry Institute Masonry Instructor Charlie Schuett celebrate Jude's achieving journeyman status on the Northeast Technical College campus in Green Bay, Wisconsin. USDA Forest Service photo.

BLACKWELL ALUMNUS ATTAINS JOURNEYPERSON TITLE AT NORTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Arriving on the campus of Northeast Technical College on November 21, 2021, Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (CCC) Acting Center Director Annie Schenkoske and International Masonry Institute Masonry Instructor Charlie Schuett were excited to surprise 2015 masonry graduate Jye Jude. Blackwell Job Corps CCC is where, at age 16, Jude fell in love with the masonry trade and they were there to celebrate her appointment as a Union Tile Setter Journeyman with the International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers.

A minor when she graduated Blackwell Job Corps CCC, Jude had a difficult time finding a job. At age 18, after a brief stint working for a non-union company, she enrolled in Northeast Technical College's masonry program and transitioned to working with tile. A Green Bay, Wisconsin tile company hired her and sponsored her apprenticeship.

"I've been having a lot of fun with it. I learn something new every day," says Jude. "I feel appreciated, valued at my job and I make a great income."

Jude is grateful that Job Corps exposed her to more career options. She wants other young people to know that an expensive college education isn't the only option to better their lives. "You can escape poverty without going into debt," she says. "You can build generational wealth. You can make a difference in your community."

For young people who have struggled economically, her last words of advice are, "There are kind people out there who will help you. Please reach out and don't give up! You are smart, beautiful, and God loves you."

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 SCOTT BREWER CURLIEW JOB CORPS CCC



Forest Service Job Corps CCCs draw some of their most successful staff recruits from the military. Curlew Job Corps' Career Preparation Period (CPP) Lead Training Technician Scott Brewer, a U.S. Air Force veteran, is not surprised. "Military

culture is well-suited for Job Corps student culture," he says. "Some of our students have never experienced the structure, discipline, and accountability that defines military service."

Brewer, who served 12 years active duty as a Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) Specialist, has far-ranging interests. Having grown up hunting, fishing, and trapping outside of Lincoln, Nebraska, he loves everything outdoors and is fond of bow hunting for Whitetail deer and Bass fishing.

A car enthusiast, Brewer invests a portion of his rare down time restoring classic cars. His favorite restoration is a "frame-off" restoration of a 1969 candy apple red Mach 1, S-code 390 Big Block. Frame-off car restorations require the entire body be removed from the car and all parts be reconditioned or replaced and repainted--a necessity to possess a collector's showpiece. "It was a ton of work," says Brewer. "But oh, what a head turner it was when it was completed."

Brewer, who originally joined Curlew as the CPP Coordinator in 2016, loves to see students enter Job Corps prepared to fail only to discover they can accomplish more than they ever imagined. "They leave Curlew with their heads held high and crush it by landing good jobs and leading successful lives. I'm blessed to be a part of that process."



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