

FEBRUARY 2022

# THE COURIER

FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS  
Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards



(L-R) Jacobs Creek Job Corps CCC Heavy Equipment Operations graduate Christopher Miller and IOUE Heavy Equipment Operations Instructor Anthony Driver in 2015. "Unemployable" when he enrolled in 2014, today at age 31, Miller earns a high salary along with great benefits. Since graduating from the Heavy Equipment Operations program, Miller has earned more than \$900,000 as a steadily-employed union crane operator. USDA Forest Service photo.

## TRUST IN THE WORKPLACE



Cyndi Szymanski, Asst. Director,  
Job Corps National Office.

I recently had an experience I never wanted. I was having a great day skiing with my daughter when I found myself sprawled out on the snow, skis and poles everywhere, and pain radiating from my left knee.

I took one tentative step towards my skis and realized I wasn't getting down the mountain on my own. Ski patrol packed me into an emergency sled to get me down the slope.

After I was strapped in, lying inches off the ground, moving backwards and watching skiers pass by from an unusual viewpoint, I realized I was completely at the mercy of ski patrol and had to put my trust in his abilities to get me downhill safely. I had to trust his intent, his training and his ability to do his job.

Relatedly, during Senior Leadership Training, we explored the idea of trust and how it fits in the workplace. Like my

experience with ski patrol, we need to lean in with one another and trust each other's intentions, training and ability to do our jobs.

It's no small thing but essential to creating a positive work environment. I fundamentally believe people show up to work wanting to be their best selves, serve our students and accomplish the work at hand.

It's important to remember that about one another and assume positive intent in each other's actions and decisions. Job Corps moves fast, decisions are made quickly, often without time for us to consult one another on every

**“ WE ARE RELIANT ON EACH OTHER AS COLLEAGUES. TRUSTING ONE ANOTHER TO DO THE RIGHT THING IS ESSENTIAL FOR A SUCCESSFUL WORK ENVIRONMENT. ”**  
— CYNDI SZYMANSKI

outcome. This leaves us with the need to trust in each other's skills and abilities in making decisions and taking actions.

Trust in the workplace means employees enjoy a culture of honesty, psychological safety and mutual respect. Being proud of where we work helps us all contribute our best to our organization and our students. We are reliant on each other as colleagues. Trusting one another to do the right thing is essential for a successful work environment.

Trust makes us feel secure in our jobs and want to work hard and do our best every day. Leaning in and trusting will help frame a more positive relationship with each other and create the healthiest environment for our students.

I hope to be traveling soon to develop a rapport and trustful relationship with you all this year. Until then take care of yourselves and one another, Cyndi.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **At-a-glance:** Visit the [OC Editorial Calendar](#) for upcoming agency-wide communication activities.
- **Job Corps is recognized with Chief's Awards:** Watch the video here [Excel as a high-performing agency](#)
- **Visit Us:** Job Corps National Office [SharePoint](#) site.

## EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE



(L-R) Angell Job Corps Urban Forestry students Evelyn Walcott and Jovannie Uribe alongside Urban Forestry instructors Bryce Crunkilton and Ken Ruiz. USDA Forest Service photo.

## ANGELL JOB CORPS CCC URBAN FORESTRY STUDENTS RETURN TO WORK

With its well-deserved reputation, the Angell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Urban Forestry Program is sought out by local nonprofit conservation organizations. Last November, in their first off-center excursion since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, Angell urban forestry students headed out to the Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary near Yachats, Oregon at the request of the Portland Audubon Society.

Composed of old-growth forest, the 216-acre wilderness sanctuary serves as critical habitat for federally listed Marbled Murrelets, Northern Spotted Owls, and coastal Coho salmon. Over two days, students Evelyn Walcott and Jovannie Uribe set to work clearing

trails, fashioning snags for wildlife, and managing old growth forest and invasive species. Volunteer excursions such as this allow them to further refine technical forestry skills such as tree girdling—a process of cutting around the cambium of an unhealthy tree. They also were able to observe and learn how snags provide food, nesting, and shelter for birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish.

*Student Tristan Hudgeon girdles an Alder tree to create a habitat snag. USDA Forest Service photo.*



The Portland Audubon Society completed a land acquisition in January 2022 that will double the size of the Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary. As it continues to make headway with its transformative landscape conservation vision, Angell Job Corps CCC Urban Forestry students will be standing by to lend assistance.

*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 KELLY SHANNON HARPERS FERRY JOB CORPS CCC



Harpers Ferry Job Corps Support Services Supervisor (SSS) Kelly Shannon is not a person who likes attention. But, when asked if he had an employee he'd like to spotlight, Harpers Ferry Job Corps Shawn Miller stated "Kelly Shannon"

with no hesitation. "Because of her willingness to learn, Kelly has helped throughout the center and is an asset to have on your team," said Miller.

After years of submitting job applications, Shannon joined Harpers Ferry staff as a contract human resources assistant in 2007, when it was still operated by the National Park Service. Soon after the Forest Service took over center operations, she accepted the office automation assistant in December 2009. In November 2019, she was promoted to Support Services Supervisor.

Outside her enthusiasm for Job Corps, Shannon is devoted to her family. Married at a fairly young age, the youthful parting between her and her future husband John is worthy of one of the many 1980s teen flicks that explored romantic, teen angst. Best friends and neighbors, Shannon and John grew up in Leesburg, Virginia. When John was 17 and Shannon only 15, his family moved out-of-state. On the drive out-of-town with his family, John yelled to Shannon out the car window, "I'm coming back to marry you!" as they drove past Shannon's house. Five years later he did return, they were married and now 34 years later they have two adult daughters and recently became first time grandparents to a beautiful baby girl! "We're loving life," says Shannon.



## STAY IN THE KNOW!

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- #jobcorpsfire

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

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