



MARCH 2022

THE COURIER

FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS

Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards



(L-R) Anaconda Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center has acquired an Ultra Cockpit Driving Simulator. It features advanced traffic safety training software, includes 39 lessons, and over 200 exercise scenarios that address risk awareness, crash avoidance, and driving in adverse conditions. This allows students to practice driving as if they are at the wheels of a real vehicle. USDA Forest Service photo.

IT'S NOT ABOUT ME



Jerry Ingersoll, Job Corps
National Director, JCNO.

When I'm frustrated or stressed at work, and about to react, I think of these words.

I'm here to advance the Forest Service and Job Corps missions and serve the students. That's why I have this job, and why I come to work every day.

When I examine myself, though, what the program needs and what the mission needs gets

all mixed up with my own emotional, personal, and human needs. I want to be right. I want to be liked. I want to be heard and valued and appreciated for what I do. But it's not about me. Right?

I think the more positional power you hold, the more important it is to build perspective on your own motivations. When you're a student or a frontline worker, self-advocacy is a good thing. If the Job Corps program isn't serving one of our students, I want them to speak up. If our national policy

is keeping you from taking care of students, I need you to tell me (whether or not I can do anything about it is another question).

But when you're in the power position and a student or an employee points out that you were in the wrong, how do you react, and why? How much of your reaction is about protecting your own ego and power and need to be right? What's best for the student and the mission? This is hard.

“ I THINK THE MORE POSITIONAL POWER YOU HOLD, THE MORE IMPORTANT IT IS TO BUILD PERSPECTIVE ON YOUR OWN MOTIVATIONS. WHEN YOU'RE A STUDENT OR A FRONTLINE WORKER, SELF-ADVOCACY IS A GOOD THING. IF THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM ISN'T SERVING ONE OF OUR STUDENTS, I WANT THEM TO SPEAK UP. ”

— JERRY INGERSOLL

When I react from defensiveness or frustration, I'm protecting myself, often at a cost. When I fail to act because it may make someone unhappy with me there's a cost there too. What do I need to do to get the outcome I'm after? Who do I serve? It's not about me.

One of my favorite movie quotes from *Saving Private Ryan* is when Tom Hank's character explains:

"I don't gripe to you, Reiben. I'm a captain. There's a chain of command. Gripes go up, not down. Always up. You gripe to me. I gripe to my superior officer, so on, so on, and so on. I don't gripe to you. I don't gripe in front of you. You should know that, as a Ranger."

--Captain Miller, *Saving Private Ryan*

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.



(L-R) Schenck Job Corps CCC UBC carpentry graduate Bethany Doneff and Ernie Freske, Superintendent, Poettker Construction Company. Courtesy photo by Beth Doneff.

SCHENCK JOB CORPS CCC UBC CARPENTRY GRADUATE BETHANY DONEFF HAS IT FIGURED OUT

At the young age, 2021 Schenck Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center graduate Bethany Doneff has a lot figured out and Academic Manager Cheri Jones couldn't be prouder. Doneff graduated from Schenck's United Brotherhood of Carpentry (UBC) program with eighteen certificates and awards. She now works full-time as a registered apprentice carpenter at Poettker Construction Company, with a starting wage of \$17.91 per hour.

Doneff enrolled in Job Corps because she wanted better job opportunities than her hometown of Seven Springs, North Carolina could provide. "Bethany was one of those students that had an inner drive to learn all she could and excel," says Jones. "She is definitely one of those students who found her why and hasn't forgotten it."

Doneff excelled in the UBC carpentry program. She graduated with Occupational Safety and Health Administration, green training, scaffolding, vinyl siding, customer service key training and peer mediation certifications. She also was awarded with the Carpentry Student of the Month, Safety Annual and Monthly, Independent Living and Leadership, Gold Status Successive Awards and the coveted annual Center Director's Award.

Poettker Construction Superintendent Ernie Freske recognized Doneff's potential and quickly snatched her up. Doneff plans to work as a journeyman carpenter, specializing in concrete forms and form work but she's willing to try anything. Doneff believes that Job Corp is a perfect program for 16-24-year-olds who want to better themselves. "Know your why—and once you figure that out...don't forget it," she advises young people wanting to transform their lives.

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 JONNI DINSTEL PINE RIDGE JOB CORPS CCC



Pine Ridge Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Career Preparation Instructor Jonni Dinstel understands that running a center takes teamwork. "When I first arrive in the morning, I immediately look to the overnight

updates to prepare for the tone of the day. All parts of center-life are connected," says Dinstel. "I try to be updated and prepared to help the team and the students wherever needed."

The pace of Dinstel's daily life sounds dizzying. She's expecting a baby girl in March. When not at work, chasing after her boys aged two and four, and making sure her two dogs and cats are fed, Dinstel carves out time to study. She's also earning a master's degree in counseling from Chadron State College!

Dinstel loves watching the transformation her students undergo as they discover life's possibilities and move forward with a sense of exploration and a spirit of optimism. "I have a student now—who is an immigrant from Iraq," she says. "When he arrived, he was unsure of himself," she says. "He's turned into such a fun person to watch. He's blossomed as a leader and steps up to assist wherever he can."

Dinstel applies the insights she's gained as a parent to her interactions with both students and fellow employees at Pine Ridge. "Everyone is growing, everyone is lost sometimes, and everyone's day gets a little bit better with a snack and a nap," she observes. "Ultimately, we're all doing our best, and a little bit of grace can make the difference we need in life."



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