

MAY 2022

THE COURIER

FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS

Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards



(l-r) Boxelder Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students Jordan Smith and Shawn Madsen remove plastic from Whitewood Creek in Deadwood, South Dakota, on Earth Day 2022. With almost all of it's current enrollment of 50 students participating, the Boxelder student body came out in full force in a spirit of volunteerism and caring for the land. USDA Forest Service photo.

CELEBRATE THE MONTH OF MAY



Harris Maceo, Deputy Director,
Job Corps National Office.

My fellow Job Corps colleagues, in this, my 12th year in Job Corps, I once again have the privilege of sharing my thoughts about our great mission. It's hard to find the words to express the pride I feel to be working in such a remarkable program and alongside hardworking and committed public servants such as yourselves.

Throughout the month of May we have celebrated the holidays the month brings-May Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, Cinco de Mayo, Teachers Appreciation Day, Bike to Work Day, and even May the 4th and I want you to take time to celebrate YOU and what you do for our Civilian Conservation Centers (CCCs) and our amazing students.

At the start of this month, the Department of Labor (DOL) reported On-Board-Strength (OBS) at our 24 CCCs at

approximately 35% of the planned OBS. The other 93 Job Corps centers were at a planned OBS rate of approximately 32.12%. Four CCCs are above 50% of their planned OBS and 19 centers are above 50% of their safe OBS.

These numbers demonstrate that, no matter what challenges we face, you have created an environment where young people feel welcomed, comfortable, and safe.

Last month Chief Randy Moore approved approximately \$10 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for the

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HARRIS MACEO

Job Corps program to enhance our conservation mission integration efforts.

Our Job Corps National Office is working closely with all Center Directors and DOL to execute this funding for CCC conservation related trades. These trade additions will fully support the conservation mission of the Forest Service and establish a formal training program for entry level positions within our agency.

As we come out of two years of operations under COVID-related protocols, let's celebrate our successes this May. Spring is in full bloom and summer is fast approaching.

Whether it's National Burger Day or Star Wars Day (May the 4th), there's always a reason to celebrate. Please don't forget to celebrate You and your students and let's make May a month to celebrate in Forest Service Job Corps!

HIGHLIGHTS

- **At-a-glance:** Visit the [OC Editorial Calendar](#) for upcoming agency-wide communication activities.
- **Great Onyx Job Corps students earn new credentials:** [Job Corps partnership with national forests benefits forest and students](#)
- **Visit Us:** Job Corps National Office [SharePoint](#) site.



Columbia Basin Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center. USDA Forest Service photo.

COLUMBIA BASIN JOB CORPS LEADS WITH SAFETY

On September 11, 2021, a Columbia Basin Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Camp Crew member at the Muckamuck Fire Spike Camp in Conconully, Washington, broke her arm operating a hose rolling machine—suffering a break that required multiple surgeries and months of physical therapy. On a large fire there can be multiple five-man CCC camp crews performing hose inspection and running hose rolling machines.

This accident occurred when the crew member reached forward into the machine's wheel with her foot on the power pedal. The gravity of reaching forward caused her foot to depress the pedal which activated the hose roller and her arm was sucked into the machine. The hose roller in question was an older model pulled from a state cache.

Subsequently, the Accident Investigation Team determined that, lacking the proper safeguards, this particular machine model should be modified or taken out of service. The team also decided to make an in-depth training video on the proper operation of hose rolling machines.

The Columbia Basin Job Corps Accident Investigation Team uncovered a significant training gap and proactively took action to fill the gap. It is leading by example by developing and mandating training and actively fostering a culture of safety. Several CCCs have already made the Hose Rolling Machine Safety Video required training, empowering crew members to be responsible for their own safety.

Happily, the injured Columbia Basin student recovered and is back on-center to complete her education. "I simply hope that the video helps to prevent future injury on hose rollers," states Columbia Basin Job Corps Safety Officer Walt Johnston. Columbia Basin Job Corps CCC would like to thank the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for its video editing and production support.

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 CHRISTINA YATES FORT SIMCOE JOB CORPS CCC



As a 16-year-old runaway, the future for Fort Simcoe Job Corps Center Standards Officer Christina Yates appeared bleak. Directionless, alone and without a positive adult role model, she made poor life choices until a stranger

made a passing observation that she had limitless potential. This statement was enough to spur Yates to transform her life. "I found the mentors my soul needed—who believed in me and taught me to believe in myself," she reflects. Today she oversees that same type of change in the lives of her students.

Yates, who in 1999 started work as a contract employee working the graveyard shift in residential, was promoted to the Center Standards Officer position in 2009. She feels it's the best gift ever to be in a place where she can mentor at-risk youth to make better choices and impress upon them that their goals are obtainable with knowledge, hard work, and a positive attitude. "I love my duties because it allows me to put all my crazy life experiences to good use."

Not all the students she mentors find success immediately. One was separated for a second positive UA after 40 days on-center. He eventually realized his dream of becoming a carpenter, began his own business, and started a family.

Yates states, "Job Corps has the ability to make a positive difference in someone's life even if they are only here a short time. I'm grateful that I am still able to share my story of success with the students."



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- #jobcorpsfire

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

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