



JULY 2022

THE COURIER

FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS

Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards



The Cass Leadership Development Program is fulfilling its promise of building leadership through the three C's—community, communication and connections. Recently students visited with Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson to share their Job Corps story. (l-r) Kennett Phillips, Clarissa West, Danny Thao, Zachary Hamilton, Governor Asa Hutchinson, Kennett Milton, Jenna Collier, Amanda Romaine and Torin Johnson. USDA Forest Service photo.

PUBLIC SERVICE IS BUILT ON INTEGRITY



Joy Nasados, Supervisory
Program Coordinator, JCNO.

In May, I participated in This is Who We Are Training. My greatest takeaway from this training concerned the modeling of integrity articulated as follows: “As employees of the Forest Service, we must be trusted to “do right” in how we treat each other as colleagues and how we engage with the people and communities we

serve. When we do, we increase trust and inspire others to engage with us in caring for the land and serving people.”

For almost 42 years, and forty of those as a manager or supervisor, I have participated in many leadership trainings. In all of those training events, integrity has always been stressed as a leadership priority.

June 2020 marked the 50-year anniversary of a dark period in our nation’s history, the break in of the National Democratic Headquarters at the Watergate complex in

Washington, D.C. This event and its aftermath spawned many familiar quotations, such as “Follow the money”, “It wasn’t the crime; it was the coverup”, “Martha was right”, and many names and documents have been added to our history, such as *The Pentagon Papers*, Daniel Ellsberg, the Nixon Tapes, G. Gordon Liddy, John Dean, etc.

“OUR FUNCTIONING AS MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE MUST BE GROUNDED IN THE PUBLIC TRUST. WE OWE THAT TO THE USDA FOREST SERVICE AND TO THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS WHOM WE SERVE.”

JOY NASADOS

The obstruction of justice verdicts of those involved led to the only resignation by an American President in our history. Most of you are too young to remember Watergate vividly or perhaps at all. I was in graduate school but remember my parents glued to their television set throughout *The Watergate Hearings* of 1974. As a result of “Watergate,” many lost faith in our government institutions.

Our functioning as members of the federal workforce must be grounded in the public trust. We owe that to the USDA Forest Service and to the American taxpayers whom we serve.

We are all required when we enter federal service to take an Oath of Office. Explicit in that oath is that we will protect and defend *The Constitution of the United States* and that we will “well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office.” It is like the oath of office that the President of the United States takes at his or her inauguration. We are not the President of course. Yet, we are a part of something much larger than ourselves, and all of our actions should be those that elicit public trust and instill confidence in the integrity of our institutions. Integrity should be at the basis of all of our actions as leaders and say through our words and more importantly our actions—This is Who We are.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **At-a-glance:** Visit the [OC Editorial Calendar](#) for upcoming agency-wide communication activities.
- **Trapper Creek Job Corps CCC:** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/delivering-mission/excel/nre-under-secretary-wilkes-visits-trapper-creek-job-corps>
- **Visit Us:** Job Corps National Office [SharePoint](#) site.



EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE

(l-r) Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indian Tribe Principal Chief Richard Sneed points out symbols of the Cherokee Indian heritage to Oconaluftee Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Works Program Officer Dean Smith, Center Director Jerry Buschmann and U.S. Forest Service Job Corps National Director Jerry Ingersoll on June 16, 2022. USDA Forest Service photo by Ryan Livingston.

THE CHEROKEE BEARS PROJECT ARRIVES ON OCONALUFTEE JOB CORPS CCC

On June 16, 2022, as part of [The Cherokee Bears Project](#), the Eastern Band of the Cherokee (EBCI) Principal Chief Richard Sneed traveled to Oconaluftee Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center to dedicate the Oconaluftee Bear, painted by [Nikki Nations](#).

The EBCI founded the Cherokee Bears Project to showcase the artistic talents of members from its Bird, Blue, Deer, Long Hair, Paint, Wild Potato, and Wolf clans. Each bear is painted to represent a different aspect of EBCI culture.

Oconaluftee's decade's long partnership with the EBCI is a point of honor for the center. Nation used her artistry to create a visual tapestry reflecting Oconaluftee's conservation mission and the unique beauty of the Great Smokey Mountains alongside symbols of the Cherokee Indian heritage.

"This helps us connect to the community and we love being a part of Cherokee and its heritage," said Center Director Jerry Buschmann. Oconaluftee is proud that it is among the many locals where visitors can now enjoy these cultural celebrations.

It was a special treat for Oconaluftee to have Job Corps National Director Jerry Ingersoll present for the dedication. Both Ingersoll and EBCI Principal Chief Richard Sneed expressed appreciation of the partnership. Oconaluftee students and staff have supported and participated in EBCI projects and cultural celebrations. They look forward to future opportunities to further deepen this proud partnership.

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 DIANE SLAGLE COLLBRAN JOB CORPS CCC



"I never intended to stay at Collbran--only to use the job [Office Automation Clerk] as a stepping stone that allowed me to live in Grand Junction with my husband," states Collbran Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center

(CCC) Administrative Officer (AO) Diane Slagle. "Now, twenty-eight years later I am here and loving every day."

It's a familiar story. You accept a job on a CCC with the intent of quickly moving on. A pit-stop in a "job" transforms into a beloved career—Job Corps has a way of getting in your blood. Slagle is just as devoted to and proud of her family. She and husband Alan have been married almost 30 years. They have two sons—28-year-old Keith and 26-year-old Kyle. "Our sons were raised in the 'Collbran Way.' They visited the center throughout their childhoods and respected Collbran's rules."

Collbran's people are what Diane likes best about her job. She admires how the staff work with students and help them reach their goals.

Anyone familiar with Job Corps knows that the AO job is demanding and touches every aspect of center life. Slagle uses her long daily commute to plan her workday. "My morning begins with briefing out with the midnight staff. I review my e-mail and then pivot to working with budget, human resource, administration, and dining hall staff along with providing support to other departments on-center." To relax and unwind, Slagle enjoys fishing, hunting, and camping with her family. And she's somewhat of a sports addict—football is her favorite to watch!



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