

DECEMBER 2022

THE COURIER

FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS

Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards



Schenck and LBJ Job Corps culinary arts programs catered the Capitol Christmas Tree Harvesting Celebration at the North Carolina Governor's Western Mansion in Asheville, North Carolina on November 2, 2022. I-r back row: Southern Region Regional Forester Ken Arney, Angela Beck (LBJ CCC Culinary Arts Instructor), Tamiya Sifford (LBJ CCC Culinary Arts student), Jerome Howell (Schenck CCC Culinary Arts Instructor), Dhani Roberson and Matthew Phillips (Schenck CCC Culinary Arts students) and Alex Williams (Schenck CCC Culinary Arts Instructor). I-r front row: Anjalo Fierro and McKenzie Clark (LBJ CCC Culinary Arts students). USDA Forest Service photo by Jodi Thomas.

FOR ME, JOB CORPS WAS A LIFESTYLE



I-r: Job Corps National Director Jerry Ingersoll congratulates retiring Anaconda Job Corps CCC Center Director Ray Ryan. USDA Forest Service photo by Cyndi Szymanski.

In the late 1960's, my Dad took my brothers and myself for a ride up Foster Creek. He had been in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930's and wanted to check out the new "CCC camp" they were building up there. I remember some building frames and a large structure that we were told was going to be a gym. I had no idea that what became Anaconda Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center would become part of my nearly 44-year federal career.

Years later I had graduated from the University of Montana and had worked a couple of summers for the Forest Service in Deer Lodge, Montana on the ranger district. I was working

for the school district in Anaconda and put in for another summer of employment with the Forest Service when someone read my application and realized I now had a teaching degree. My assignment was switched from a ranger district to Job Corps where I became a GED teacher. An economic downturn hit the Anaconda community and I was lucky enough to get hired as a residential advisor at Collbran Job Corps in Colorado. So my wife and I packed up

“ . . . THE GREATEST THING ABOUT THIS JOB IS THE PEOPLE YOU MEET. ”
RAY RYAN

and headed to Colorado for the start of a 30-year journey with stops in Berlin, Germany, Ft. Carson, Colorado, back to Collbran and eventually back to the place where it all started—Anaconda, Montana. Home. Looking back, I would have to say that the greatest thing about this job is the people you meet. People who are dedicated to what they do every day: making students successful. During my second assignment at Collbran, we used to say that the program was more than a job—it is a lifestyle. We were unique there. We not only were coworkers, we actually spent time away from work with each other. Our wives and husbands became friends. Our kids became friends. We golfed, hunted, fished and attended some infamous Jimmy Buffett concerts together. Additionally, under Gove Aker, we ran the best Job Corps center in the country. Everything I learned at Collbran I brought back with me to Anaconda 13 years ago.

When I returned to Anaconda Job Corps, I was fortunate enough to find the same staff dedication to student success that we had at Collbran. Anaconda returned to being a top performing center. Each and every staff member here takes pride not only in our students but in the way the center's success is reflected in the community. Like myself, all of the team here grew up with Job Corps. It is a lifestyle. . . .

I thank everyone who was a part of my journey. *Adieu. Ray.*

HIGHLIGHTS

- **At-a-glance:** Visit the [OC Editorial Calendar](#) for upcoming agency-wide communication activities.
- **Jacobs Creek Job Corps CCC:** [Job Corps Alumnus finds career through GAOA trails project](#)
- **Visit Us:** Job Corps National Office [SharePoint](#) site.



(l-r) Tristen Twomey (Flatwoods CCC student), Musa Omerambe (Flatwoods CCC student), Jason Amis (Angell CCC JCAFMO) Marian O'Halloran (Angell CCC residential living/staff militia/FF1/ICT5 trainee), Raven Wilson (Angell CCC student), Lex Scanlan (Siuslaw National Forest Prevention/NVF & FIRB trainee), Eli Peterson (Angell CCC module lead), Deshawn Williams (Angell CCC student). USDA Forest Service photo by Eli Peterson.

ANGELL AND FLATWOODS FIREFIGHTERS HELP COMBAT ARSONIST ON WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST

When the Wayne National Forest uncovered a serial arsonist active on the forest, Angell and Flatwoods Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (CCC) deployed for two-week fire assignments from November 2 - 15, 2022, to help combat the threat. The crew worked primarily on structure protection, securing lines around the fire, backburns and a few days of mop-up and snagging operations. It was a tremendous learning experience for both students and staff.



Jason Amis (far right) teaches Flatwoods and Angell Job Corps students on the proper construction of a leaf blower line. USDA Forest Service photo by Eli Peterson.



(l-r) Marian O'Halloran and Musa Omerambe finish a mile long burnout operation on the Kimble Complex on November 9, 2022. USDA Forest Service photo by Eli Peterson.

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 BARBARA MAYER ANACONDA JOB CORPS CCC



Anaconda Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Wellness Manager Barbara Mayer cannot imagine working anywhere else. An eighteen year veteran of Job Corps, the best part of her job is meeting new students as they on-

board and observing their personal growth. "When I help a student, I always say to myself, 'plant a seed,'" says Mayer. "I am so blessed because I know that the seeds I plant often grow."

Later in life, many of those students will drop Mayer a thank you letter with pictures of their family. A student she last saw nine years ago recently approached her in a restaurant to let her know that he still follows her health advice, sharing that it improves his wellbeing.

Mayer's first meeting of each day, with Anaconda's two nurses, sets the day's tone. She addresses any urgent student issues that have arisen over night. She then dives into administrative duties surrounding policy, budget, purchasing, and student review. She approaches her job knowing that a solution exists for most problems. "I dislike responses from anyone that relays, 'how not to get something done,'" says Mayer. It's an attitude that does not accommodate much down time and for Mayer, there is never a dull moment at Job Corps.

Mayer uses her past life experiences, along with kindness and compassion to support her students. She strives towards being the most true and best expression of herself at home and on campus. "It's amazing how peaceful your state of mind is when this is practiced," she shares.



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- #jobcorpsfire

More exciting news can be found on our [Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers'](https://www.jobcorps.gov/civilian-conservation-centers/) website!

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