Here at Weber Basin Job Corps, we’re excited to kick-off the second year of our Advanced Emergency Dispatch program. The first year was not without its challenges and learning curve, but overall we had some impressive outcomes. Our inaugural class—graduates Lili Hernandez, Damian King, and Takoda Williams have all have pursued career opportunities in the emergency dispatch and or administration.

Lili Hernandez is working at U.S. Forest Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Damian King has a position the Nature Conservancy in Kentucky. Takoda Williams has recently accepted a position with the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon. Their hard work and dedication laid the groundwork for future students. It was an amazing experience, and an honor, for all the staff involved in building this program from the ground up to witness.

On January 23rd, 2023 Weber Basin Job Corps welcomed our second cohort of seven students for this groundbreaking vocational program. After a short orientation, they have hit the ground running. Over the next five months, they will need to work hard to master the necessary skills that will make them valuable assets with the skills to perform at a high-level in dispatch centers around the country. Staff across the Weber Basin Job Corps are excited to be the Civilian Conservation Center allowed to pilot this program and continue to build upon the success of the first year. We are proud to be producing exceptional young graduates who will pursue careers that will contribute to the health of our nation’s public lands and support conservation on our national forests and grasslands.
On Saturday January 28, 2023, Lyndon B. Johnson CCC Facilities Maintenance students Tre’maine Stevenson, Klu Loh, and Hser Wah and Welding students Sha’Kera Flythe and Christopher Lewis volunteered to assist the 828 VETS in building a wheelchair ramp and landing on a disabled veteran’s home. Guidance Counselor and Air Force Veteran Shawna Keyes transported the students and also lent a hand. The mission of 828 VETS is to support veteran careers and businesses. LBJ staff and students have volunteered their skills whenever the group could use extra sets of hands. “I think it’s a great partnership between our organizations,” says 828 Vets founder, Craig McManus. “The students did well both times and we really appreciated the help.” This was the second construction project that LBJ assisted with, both times building wheelchair accessible ramps and landings onto disabled veteran’s homes. “Helping the one’s in need brings me joy,” says Stevenson. “You can always learn something and it was good to get out and do something for the community.”

Ferguson was a student at Trapper Creek before he was staff. A native of Edison, Georgia, he heard about Job Corps through newspaper articles. He enrolled in Trapper Creek in 1967 and graduated in 1968. Ferguson worked summers at the Powell Ranger Station on the Clearwater National Forest while enrolled at Western Montana College. He graduated in 1973 with a degree in History and Physical Education.

Ferguson went on to enroll in the University of Montana to earn his Master’s degree in Education in 1974. He worked weekends at Trapper Creek until he graduated in 1978 and joined the staff full-time as a Recreation Assistant. Within a few years, he was promoted to being the director.

Ferguson is one of Trapper’s most beloved staff. He enjoys the challenge of working with students and he’s deeply immersed in their day-to-day lives. Over the years he’s had numerous students reach out to him and share how he made a difference in their life. Ferguson shares that having four kids of his own— one girl and three boys— has helped him understand the challenges youth encounter and he designs Trapper Creek’s recreation program around activities that empower his students.

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Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers' website!

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