

MARCH 2023

THE COURIER

FOREST SERVICE JOB CORPS CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS
Creating the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards



(l-r) Curlew Job Corps Center Director Scott Palmer, on detail with the Job Corps National Office to assist with staff recruitment, met with Anaconda Job Corps Liaison Specialist Carrie Myer-Wolfe on March 2, 2023, to provide training on her staff recruitment duties. USDA Forest Service photo.

A DEEP DIVE WITH ANACONDA JOB CORPS CCC LIAISON SPECIALIST CARRIE MEYER-WOLFE



Carrie Meyer-Wolfe, Liaison Specialist, Anaconda Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center.

Each day you come to work at a Civilian Conservation Center (CCC) you have to adapt, go with the flow—be fluid in how you structure your day to deal with the unexpected.

No center staff member knows this better than a Liaison Specialist (LS). This position, meant to echo the responsibilities of the abolished Business and Community Liaison Specialist, is shaping up

to be something totally new.

The LS was supposed to be the face of the center. Now it not only encompasses traditional tasks like public affairs and work-based learning, staff and student recruitment have been added to the mix. With the CCCs' high staff vacancy rate and low student on-board strength, LSs are facing substantial challenges.

Anaconda Job Corps LS Carrie Meyer-Wolfe, nine years into her Job Corps career, sat down to shed light on how she's tackling her new position. "If you look at the position description, it's not achievable," states Meyer-Wolfe. "You cannot do all the duties it covers simultaneously. But it's not so crazy if you break it down."

The key to success, says Meyer-Wolfe, is to cultivate a close relationship and establish open communication with both the Center Director and management team regarding their expectations and priorities.

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CARRIE MEYER-WOLFE

Meyer-Wolfe started her career with Anaconda as the Vocational Development Specialist (VDS) position before accepting her current position; she counts herself fortunate to work at the center. In the surrounding community, working at Anaconda is a desirable job and currently there are only three staff vacancies. She hopes to fill them from the pool of Anaconda residents. Hard-to-find affordable housing makes it nearly impossible to lure staff outside the community who have to relocate.

Another advantage and time saver is how the community rallies around the center. "I'm lucky that our legislators love us," she says. "I don't have to spend time promoting to government offices the way other centers do."

In addition to recruiting staff through cold-calling, Meyer-Wolfe networks with friends on social media. She appreciates the help Job Corps National Office staff recruiters Scott Palmer and Bryan Bearor provide. She encourages all centers to take advantage of their services.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **At-a-glance:** Visit the [OC Editorial Calendar](#) for upcoming agency-wide communication activities.
- **Jacobs Creek Job Corps CCC:** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/delivering-mission/excel/job-corps-alumna-maite-olsens-path-forest-service-career>
- **Visit Us:** Job Corps Fire Program [SharePoint](#) site.



Anaconda Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students. USDA Forest Service photo.

A DEEP DIVE WITH ANACONDA JOB CORPS CCC LIAISON SPECIALIST CARRIE MEYER-WOLFE

“Some centers say they are fine and don’t need any help,” she says. “Help is good and Scott and Bryan help perform outreach and vet candidates.” As an example, Meyer-Wolfe describes a job inquiry from a Florida resident she just received. “They don’t know the area. They don’t know the housing situation,” she shares. “Right now we have five feet of snow on the ground. That candidate is not likely to move to Montana. They may accept the position, do the research, and then decline.”

Palmer and Bearor visited Anaconda on March 2, 2023, to help train Meyer-Wolfe for her new recruiting responsibilities. While in the

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neighborhood, Bearor paid a visit to the veterans' facility in Butte to make connections for future recruitment.

With 109 students on-center and a 64.12% on-board strength, Anaconda is in better shape than most CCCs. Meyers-Wolfe believes that an LS should spend a minimum of two days a month on the road—more as the school year ends and graduates have no immediate plans in place for their future.

Having Anaconda students accompany her is her number student recruitment tactic along with on-center school tours. “Students listen to other students,” she states. Meyer-Wolfe is the center’s camp crew

coordinator and stated that Anaconda students worked the most fire hours in 2022. “They earned approximately \$700,000,” she says. Anaconda students advertise center opportunities to earn money they can use to start independent lives with potential enrollees.

A strong relationship with Anaconda High School’s counselor is another feather in her cap. “He grabs students who are just ready to graduate and brings them to me.” She feels that career fairs are her least effective tool. “It’s like herding cats. There’s so much to look at and the students are more interested in grabbing free stuff.”

Meyer-Wolfe helps out with Anaconda’s Internet café and assists in the dorms in the evenings. She also administers the student project database, technically a VDS duty. However, Anaconda’s VDS is currently detailed as the Career Preparation Period Specialist.

“At some point, we all have to get in our own lane and start doing our jobs--instead of our past jobs,” she says. “At some point, we need the opportunity to be successful in our own jobs.”

Meyer-Wolfe states that a benefit of “Black Friday,” when the CCCs were threatened with closure, is that they have come together. “We used to compete against one another and I don’t feel that anymore.”

She was excited for the opportunity to come together in-person with other LSs at a spring training conference that now will take place virtually, a change she finds somewhat disheartening. “There’s a benefit to networking in person and to sit down to share information. Some people are good at some things and others are good at something else,” she says. “During a virtual training conference, you’re distracted doing five other things at once—the phone is ringing, someone’s knocking at your door. Hopefully soon they can get us together.”



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EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE

(sitting back row l-r) Brayden Klinge, Luis Vargas, Roderick Davis; (l-r) Jemeriqua Howard, Travis Howell, Matthew Phillips, Cedric Holland, Ellen Prinzi, Faith Cunningham, Noele Sabatino, Curiney Cain, Angela Langstaff, Tommy Jackson. USDA Forest Service photo by Eli Peterson.

SCHENCK JOB CORPS CONDUCTS FIRST ANNUAL CERTIFIED LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Job Corps program can be thought of as a three-legged stool built upon academics, vocational certification, and employability skills, that help ensure the success of its students.

Elements of employability skills include social and leadership skills. Recognizing this, Schenck Job Corps CCC Center Director Angela Langstaff and key center leadership staff conducted Schenck's first annual Certified Leadership Training from February 21st – 24th, 2023.

The best students center wide participated and staff were careful to select students from all age groups to create a deeper understanding amongst the student body. Over the course of four days, they were encouraged to participate in class discussions by reading, writing, and solving random problems as they advanced through the daily coursework.

Some of the topics Schenck students found challenging; however, they recognized the importance of discussing concepts that could be uncomfortable but had to be explored to prepare them for their leadership roles and responsibilities.

Topics included leadership in community service, assertiveness, positive/negative thought processes, safety, vocational success, leadership during leisure time, leadership and independent living expectation after hours. All the Certified Leadership Training participants will be expected to mentor other students in small group trainings and mediate amongst their peers.

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 DIANA MORGAN ANGELL JOB CORPS CCC



When you ask someone “what is your greatest extravagance?” you expect an answer in the realm of “my “BMW.” Not so for Angell Job Corps CCC Career and Guidance Counselor Diana Morgan. For her, it is her investment in earning a

master's degree in Human Services in 2009, paving the way to her current, dream job. Morgan's life goal is to make positive changes in peoples lives. She has been succeeding at that since joining the staff on December 23, 2007, working as a GS-4 Social Services Assistant on the graveyard shift.

Morgan and her husband of 33 years have seven grown children. “Navigating life complexities as a parent has definitely given me insight, especially at the residential living realm that I worked for many years,” she says. Her days are filled with activities like assisting with career plans to just dropping in to share a friendly “Hello.” She's focused on ensuring she's aware of student's mental health and on managing their emotional and behavioral levels.

“My focus is seeking out solid employment opportunities for the students I serve and student success,” says Morgan. One such intervention from three years ago remains with her. “A male student's non-verbal and behavioral cues indicated he was spiraling down.” Turns out, he wanted a fire internship but feared a prior court case would close the door. She helped him work through the issue. Three years later she still gets phone calls and e-mails with career updates on his firefighting career with the Forest Service.



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