

JUNE 2023

# THE COURIER

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



Cass Job Corps Liaison Specialist Venorris Webb-DeLesline, City of Ozark Mayor Roxie Hall, Job Corps National Director Jerry Ingersoll, Cass Job Corps Center Director Richard Lassiter, Hannah Henderson and Ty Davis, Field Representatives for Senator John Boozeman, Mulberry Mayor Gary Baxter, and Cass Job Corps Works Program Officer Mike Elder. USDA Forest Service photo by Chance Gober.

## KEEPING IT IN THE COMMUNITY



Richard Lassiter, Cass Job Corps CCC Center Director. USDA Forest Service photo.

Cass Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (CCC) takes pride in the strong community ties it has with surrounding communities. Recently, we initiated a speaker series entitled, *Conversations with the CD*. The focus is educating community leaders, elected officials and industry council members about the Forest Service Job Corps program. This project is a collaboration by Cass Liaison Specialist

Venorris Webb-Delesline, a member of the Cass Community Relations Council (CRC), and me. Staff across our center play an important role as they suggest potential attendees and encourage community members to join the CRC.

Cass Job Corps staff understand the importance of sharing the mission of Job Corps. There are so many people who still have no idea Job Corps exists. Our mantra is "Cass Job

Corps Cougars never quit!" Cass Job Corps is where dreams become reality.

With this knowledge Cass staff have committed themselves to creating events that introduce communities far and wide to our center. *Conversations with the CD* are meaningful, honest, and informative conversations about what happens at Cass 24-7, 365 days of the year.

**“ DURING THESE ENGAGEMENTS, AUTHENTIC CONVERSATIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN SMALL GROUPS. ”**  
RICHARD LASSITER

The inaugural "conversation" was held in March 2023. Local community leaders, field representatives from the offices of Senator John Bozeman and Congressman Bruce Westerman, the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce Economic Team, Clarksville Mayor David Reider, City of Ozark Mayor Roxie Hall, Mulberry Mayor Gary Baxter and Job Corps National Director Jerry Ingersoll attended.

During these engagements, authentic conversations are conducted in small groups. The most recent session was "How do we build stronger bridges with the community?" The goal of this conversation was changing the mindset of what Job Corps is and constructing bridges with neighboring communities that would motivate employers to hire our graduates.

The team took an interactive tour of the Cass campus. Students in each trade organized activities for the guests which included allowing guests the opportunity to drive the heavy equipment "simulator", mix up mortar and lay bricks, and even attempt to weld! Culinary Arts students created and served guests some delicious treats. The series has received positive feedback and is a great recruitment tool. It aids in job placement and building successful community involvement. I'm happy to report there is a long list of community partners standing line requesting to invited to a future *Conversations with the CD*.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **At-a-glance:** Visit the [OC Editorial Calendar](#) for upcoming agency-wide communication activities.
- **Chief Randy Moore's Message to Job Corps Students:** [Unlock Your Potential: Join Job Corps Today and Build Your Path to Success](#)
- **Staff Recruitment:** [Job Corps Recruitment](#)



## EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE

(l-r) Weber Basin Job Corps students Anna Marshall and Mariana Perez, Center Director Jason Talbot, students Samantha Luera, Angelo Vasquez, Airrianna Gomez, and Paola Perez, and Liaison Specialist Tammy Humphrey. USDA Forest Service photo.

## WEBER BASIN JOB CORPS CCC CELEBRATES THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY



June is Pride Month, a month dedicated to celebrating the LGBTQ+ Community and Weber Basin Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center was excited to participate in the Pride Parade sponsored by the Uintah-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Walking in the parade were six Weber Basin students joined by Center Director Jason Talbot and Liaison Specialist Tammy Humphrey. Staff from

multiple federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service, participated in the event.

“We were excited for the opportunity to support the LGBTQ+ community in an event that showcased the amazing diversity within the USDA,” states Humphrey. Along the official parade route, participants were met with roaring applause and excitement from the spectators. This continued nonstop for the entire parade route of two miles.

“I have never been involved in something where so much positivity and support was coming from the spectators,” said Humphrey. “I’m sure multiple participants still feel the effects of waving the pride flags and high fiving spectators’ hands.”

Humphrey says the spectators loved Smokey the Bear and kept chanting his name. “It was definitely an experience that our students and I will never forget,” says Humphrey. “It is a true testament that we can come together and show love and support for all human beings no matter what our differences might be. Thank you to the Uintah-Wasatch-Cache National Forest for the opportunity to be part of something so amazing.”

*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 KENNETH WINNER PINE RIDGE JOB CORPS CCC



Eager for a slower pace of life, Kenneth “Ken” Winner headed to Pine Ridge Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (CCC) to teach welding in February 2011. He accepted the Safety Officer position in December 2017. “I still

get to teach, not welding, but instead teaching our young people how to be aware of potential hazards,” shared Winner. “Most of our students have little or no working experience, so this knowledge of how to protect themselves is very important.”

Winner knows the dedication it takes to land a job in the skilled trades. He began his career with Pipefitters Local Union #208 in Denver, CO. “The pipefitters program is broken up into working and schooling portions. You are employed with a signatory union contractor working full-time and have school two nights a week for three hours,” said Winner. “The apprenticeship is a five-year program. The turn out test was weeklong, all day every day. It covered everything taught over the entire five-year program. A very stressful week, but very rewarding once completed!”

Winner’s workdays are filled with completing accident and injury logs, inspections, and fulfilling reporting requirement for the Department of Labor, and the Job Corps National Office. “Training staff and students is on-going and ever changing, but my favorite part of all of this is the interactions with the students,” shared Winner. “Some of our students have been through many challenges that have shaped them into what they are. It’s easy to take our day-to-day for granted. . .Don’t forget to count your Blessings!”



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- #jobcorpsfire

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

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