

JULY 2023

THE COURIER

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

TAKING CARE OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR CARE CHOOSING PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY

Across America, July is associated with a celebration of freedom. My childhood family celebrated the Fourth of July by traveling to lakes. We would spend the day swimming, hiking, skipping rocks, and eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Before leaving, my parents would check to make sure that each of us had an egg carton.

I'm sure you're wondering why an egg carton. As kids, we loved collecting rocks. We would study the size, shape, and color of the rock, observing how the color would change after we dipped it into the lake. An egg carton allowed us to choose 12 rocks from the lakeshore to take home with us. The simple act of choosing is freedom.

Maslow's theory suggests that choices are based on human needs. Psychological needs are identified, and we refer to that as psychological safety. This is the need to express yourself knowing the message will be received with respect, understanding and empathy. For Job Corps, it's an environment where we recognize that everyone contributes in meaningful ways to the "just cause" of changing young people's lives.



Donica Bigelow, JCNO Occupational Safety and Health Mgr.
USDA Forest Service photo.

As we strive to increase awareness and support a psychologically safe work environment, here are four practices we can embrace to

contribute to a psychologically safe culture.

- **Choose Mindfulness.** It's human nature to justify our uncomfortable emotions with another's actions. When we practice the skill of paying attention to emotions and identify the personal needs that are not being met, we can more easily offer kindness and grace to ourselves and others.

- **Choose Good Intent.** My experience is that people who engage in the work of Job Corps are genuinely humanistic, service-oriented, and empathetic in nature. Changing the course of a young person's life is tough work. We all have unseen stressors in our lives that contribute to how we show up - no one is at their best all the time. Focus on the idea that we're all in this together and everyone is doing their best.



- **Choose Curiosity over Criticism.** When approaching conversations with differing ideas, ask curious questions to understand others' perspectives. Recognize when conversations include gossip or harsh judgement and support each other by redirecting those types of comments.
- **Choose Yourself.** When you take care of yourself, you'll be better able to take care of each other. Be intentional with developing healthy habits to reduce stress. Consider taking advantage of Job Corps Health and Wellness Plan. When you feel good, take that as an opportunity to check in on others. Link to Health/Wellness Plan: <https://usfs.app.box.com/s/ig3ci51wheiaekp8joftfawcnh386fln>

The freedom we celebrate this month and enjoy every day is like choosing rocks from a lakeshore. We will "take home" our experiences from our work environment. True freedom is a responsibility to make wise choices and recognize the impact of those choices on others. Contributing to a psychologically safe environment is everyone's responsibility.

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](#)
- **Disability Pride Month:** [Changing the Narrative](#)



EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE

Angell and Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students and Siuslaw and Helena National Forest staff completed a 14-day prescribed fire assignment on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in May 2023. USDA Forest Service photo.

ANGELL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING STUDENTS WALK THE PULASKI TUNNEL TRAIL

The Angell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center Fire program concluded its R8/9 prescribed fire season after 14-day prescribed and wildland fire assignment on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in May 2023. Angell students Raven Wilson and Dylan Barrera-Foxen assisted on 10 prescribed fires and one wildland fire in addition to training and helping the local unit prepare burn units. Automotive student Barrera-Foxen, who performed maintenance and battery replacement on the fire engines, proved to be a very valuable asset.



Angell graduate Dylan Barrera-Foxen enrolled in the Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship program on the Siuslaw National Forest on June 19, 2023. USDA Forest Service photo.



(l-r) Dylan Barrera-Foxen and Raven Wilson stand in front of the entrance of the Ed Pulaski Tunnel. USDA Forest Service photo.

Barrera-Foxen and Wilson were exposed to the important legacy of Ed Pulaski when Siuslaw Overhead Eli Peterson and Zone Fire Management Officer Nathan Shinkle made a pitstop in Wallace, Idaho on the drive home to Oregon on May 20, 2023. Minutes outside of town, on the Panhandle National Forest, lies the Pulaski Tunnel Trail. The trail traces the route which Edward "Big Ed" Pulaski's led his crew to the safety of a cave during the infamous 1910 fires, saving all but six of his 45-man crew. The students hiked the trail and visited the cave and memorial site commemorating individuals who lost their lives during the 1910 fires.

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 ERIN O'DRISCOLL MINGO JOB CORPS CCC



Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (CCC) Academic Supervisor Erin O'Driscoll learned the value of service from her father Tom, a police officer who worked his way through law school. "He helped those less fortunate and

those in need up until the day he passed," she said, "His hard work, good ethics, and kind heart instilled in me the desire to help others and I truly believe he is the reason I chose my career and love what I do - helping youth become our future leaders."

Driscoll began her Job Corps career at Blackwell as a teacher. She has a lengthy career in education, with 12 years spent as a middle and high school teacher and four years as the principal of a K-8 grade school. For her, discovering the CCCs was a happy accident. Driscoll wishes Job Corps wasn't such a secret. She's seen how youth unsuited for college are pushed to enroll. She loves to see her students surpass even their own expectations.

Driscoll loved teaching at Blackwell. There she found mentors and managers who inspired her to pursue a career in Job Corps management. "I now am at Mingo and have discovered that Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center staff are apparently awesome wherever you may be," she said. "I equally love my team at Mingo."

After her family, Job Corps is what Driscoll values most in her life. "There is something about the staff of a Job Corps Center - more family than coworkers. They work with their mission at the core of their beings - that our students and their success as productive citizens is key."



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- #jobcorpsfire

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

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