



JOB CORPS'

# R&R Field Report

Aiding in America's Recovery and Reinvesting in Our Future



## From the National Office of Job Corps

Dear Job Corps Staff,

As 2009 comes to an end, I just wanted to take the time to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to the Job Corps program. Our country has faced difficult economic times this year, but we must remain positive because our students need our support now more than ever. The funds Job Corps received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act have already begun to make a difference to our students, staff and community partners. We are fortunate to be in a position to help move our country toward a brighter 2010, and I know I can count on everyone to do his or her part in assisting America's recovery. I wish each of you a happy holiday season and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Lynn A. Intrepidi  
Interim National Director

## ARRA E-newsletter Volume 3 – Planning for a New Year

### Ottumwa Center Construction Update

The new Job Corps center in Ottumwa, Iowa, is one of the first Job Corps construction project funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act and is an example of how Job Corps is using the funds to stimulate local economies and promote environmental stewardship.

Construction of the Ottumwa center will have an economic impact of \$23 million to southeast Iowa for the small businesses involved in the construction of the project. Once the center is opened, Job Corps will bring approximately 130 more jobs to the region, providing \$8.4 million in salaries annually to the local economy.

Scheduled for completion in late 2010, the center will incorporate geothermal heating and cooling systems, green roof design, water conservation devices, and EnergyStar equipment. Job Corps will receive almost \$250,000 in energy rebates from the energy-saving features in each of the center's eight buildings. This campus is projected to be the first Job Corps center in the United States to qualify for the EnergyStar rating.

The Ottumwa Job Corps Center will house 300 students in on-campus

## Meet Douglas Branch An Upcoming Job Corps Green Graduate!

Douglas Branch, 24, is a soon-to-be Job Corps graduate from McKinney, Texas. Branch has been at Gary Job Corps Center since July 2009 and will graduate from the HVAC career technical training area this month. He plans to continue his education at Texas State Technical College in January. As one of Job Corps' first green graduates, he took a few minutes out of his busy schedule to tell us a little bit about what going green means to him and his thoughts on Job Corps' green focus.



Douglas Branch

**Q:** Do you think your green training will help you be more successful in your career?

**A:** Yes, I feel that with the changing economy, the green techniques we're learning on center will be applied in all industries; and if they're not, they need to be. Having these training opportunities on center will be nothing but beneficial to me and my career goals.

**Q:** Can you tell me about anything you are doing to help Gary Job Corps go green?

**A:** Our projects include a

dormitories once construction is complete. Students at the center will be able to choose from career technical training in health care, transportation, information technology and manufacturing programs.

To view a photo of the construction of the center, please [click here](#).

---

## Green Conferences Directive Write-up

When it comes to going green, there is always more to learn to benefit our Job Corps centers. By now you should have received [this directive](#) explaining the ARRA funding available for green conferences. Center staff may attend conferences to learn more about green jobs and industry trends and then share this information with other Job Corps staff members. To apply for funding, please fill out the form located [here](#) and follow its instructions regarding the approval process. All conference attendees must fill out a post-conference report, which is located [here](#).

---

## Go Green For the Holidays

During the holidays we tend to produce a lot of unnecessary waste. In an effort to be more green this season, we've included a list of ways everyone can be a little more environmentally conscious and reduce your holiday footprint.

### Trees

1. Get a live tree that you can then plant outside after the holidays. After you replant your tree, it will absorb carbon in the atmosphere, produce oxygen and provide shade. Real trees can also be a recyclable resource if you compost the tree to use for fertilizer or for mulch in your yard. Artificial trees contain non-biodegradable plastics and metals.

### Shopping

1. Bring your own reusable bags to carry purchases in.

### Gifts

1. Instead of buying physical gifts, consider purchasing a service or tickets to a concert or movie—No waste!
2. Make your gifts. You can make handcrafted items, bake cookies, write songs or paint a picture frame. Use your imagination!
3. Give environmentally friendly gifts such as aluminum water bottles, plants or clothes made from organic cotton.

### Wrapping

1. If you like dressing up your gifts, make sure to use fabric bows instead of plastic.
2. Wrap presents with recyclable wrapping paper, or reuse newspaper, magazines or paper bags for wrapping.

### Helping Others

1. Make a donation to a charity. You can give someone a meaningful gift by making a donation to your friend's favorite charity in his or her name.
2. Instead of returning a gift that you don't like or doesn't fit, consider donating it to a homeless shelter or other charity.

### Recycling

recycling program on center called Yo! Recycle! We have put up several bins around the center with this slogan. The staff has also cut down on bus and van transportation and put a new emphasis on walking. We are also trying to conserve chemicals in trades like mine.

**Q:** Does Gary Job Corps Center have any other special center projects that promote a green culture?

**A:** We are trying to start more green programs and figure out what projects would be a good fit for our center. We're still in the brainstorming stage and hope to soon begin applying green tactics and educating students and staff members on being green.

**Q:** What kinds of things have you learned in your career technical training area that demonstrate an emphasis on the environment and conservation?

**A:** We are placing an emphasis on protecting the environment and keeping HVAC up to code. Also, our instructors are making sure all of our materials are handled properly, especially the chemicals. There is a new push in all trades to be conscious of the environment and the proper disposal of chemicals.

**Q:** Are students aware and excited about the addition of the new green TARs?

**A:** Everyone is aware of the new addition of the green TARs. A few months ago new training books were introduced to the students so we would be aware of the added requirements. The overall consensus is that they know it's more work, but they understand it is only to benefit themselves and their experience level. Education never stops. Constantly learning new ways of doing things makes learning even better. Especially in the last two months, you can tell there's a push to be more green in all aspects of Job Corps.

**Q:** Do you plan to use the new "green" knowledge you have learned at Job Corps and apply it to your future career?

**A:** Yes, I plan to continue to work toward my degree to implement change and green practices in my life.

**Q:** What types of things can students do every day to show

1. Set up boxes or bins for different types of trash – cans, bottles, paper, etc. This will allow you to make recycling a lot easier and minimize the amount of trash you throw away.
2. Save discarded gift wrap and try to reuse as much as possible. Be sure to save any extra bows, ribbons and gift bags that can be reused.
3. When shipping gifts to family and friends, reuse boxes, bubble wrap, newspaper and old wrapping paper to send packages.

### Cards

1. Look for holiday cards printed on recycled paper, or you can make your own.

### Decorations

1. If you're purchasing Christmas tree lights this year, consider buying LED tree lights. LED lights last longer and use less energy.
2. To save electricity, use a timer for your external lighting, and remember to always turn off your lights at night.
3. Consider making tree decorations from edible items like cranberries and popcorn. These have far less environmental impact than plastic decorations.

### Sources:

<http://gazette.gmu.edu/articles/11180>

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2121687\\_green-holidays.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2121687_green-holidays.html)

<http://www.sustainlane.com/reviews/tips-on-going-green-for-the-holidays/D4H9NWL932YBC8QU2YYBR2LWV9JZ>

<http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/holidays/green-holidays-tips.html>

<http://www.greenlivingtips.com/articles/46/1/Earth-friendly-holiday-season-tips.html>

that they are committed to being green?

**A:** I am a member of the PCA, the Panther Club Association, which has a budget dedicated to implementing green initiatives. Right now we are recycling, cutting down on driving and even giving students ponchos for walking in the rain. We are also working on composting our food waste

---

If you have news to share about your center and want to be featured in a center spotlight, please e-mail [OJC.ARRA@dol.gov](mailto:OJC.ARRA@dol.gov).