From the National Office of Job Corps

Dear Job Corps Staff,

I hope everyone is energized and ready to move full-speed ahead into 2010 after a relaxing holiday.

Approved American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) construction projects are well under way, students are taking advantage of green training opportunities, and ARRA initiatives are taking effect on centers across the country. We've accomplished a lot and have reached many milestones, but we still have more work to do and a lot to look forward to in the coming months.

As we plan for the New Year, continue to keep ARRA projects and reporting top priorities. The next ARRA federal report deadline is Friday, January 15, and complete, on-time reporting is expected from everyone. It is so important that we track and share our successes in every way we can. I strongly encourage everyone to send pertinent information, updates and questions to the OJC.ARR@DOL.GOV e-mail address, and don't forget (if you are an ARRA Regional monitor) to upload photos on GreenSnap at www.greensnap.org.

Sincerely,

Lynn A. Intrepidi
Interim National Director

2010: Off to a Green Start

The New Year is already full of excitement for staff and students at the Los Angeles Job Corps Center as major construction begins on the center's new addition to its campus. Funded indirectly by ARRA through a 20-year lease contract, the new building will serve a variety of functions. It will contain a four-floor dormitory, a full library, an expanded medical/dental clinic, a dining room, commercial kitchen, 22 new classrooms, staff and counseling offices, and an audiovisual room. A courtyard, amphitheater and basement also are included in the construction plans.

Once the system is installed, it will immediately begin generating green power to the
Designed to attain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification status, the new L.A. facility will feature green elements, such as water-efficient landscaping and a bicycle storage area. This new building will help promote a green culture and keep environmental sustainability top-of-mind.

Construction of the facility is expected to create approximately 165 jobs both for local contractors and for Los Angeles Job Corps students training in the center’s green career areas, such as plumbing, electrical and carpentry. The general contractor and subcontractors for the project are actively recruiting for apprenticeship positions from the L.A. Center. Interviews will be conducted on center for any students interested in employment on the project. The students hired will receive valuable hands-on experience and play a key role toward completion of the project.

Coming Soon … Helpful ARRA Materials

Earth Day Every Day

Twelve centers have been awarded the first round Demand-side Management Awards, which are a part of Job Corps’ Earth Day Every Day (EDED) initiatives. Congratulations to the winners! They are:

- Boston Region – Ramey and Iroquois Job Corps
- Philadelphia Region – Woodland and Keystone Job Corps
- Atlanta Region – Finch Henry (Batesville) and Gadsden Job Corps
- Dallas Region – North Texas and Tulsa Job Corps
- Chicago Region – Dayton and Denison Job Corps
- San Francisco Region – Alaska and Sacramento Job Corps

The next EDED award deadline is January 31. Please remember to deliver submissions for the Center Recognition Award to your Regional Office by this date. For more information about this particular award, please refer to Information Notice 08-48.

In other Earth Day Every Day-related news, please be on the lookout soon for the release of an EDED programming guide. This guide will provide an activity schedule for the entire EDED Week (April 12-22). Stay tuned for more information regarding this guide and other exciting EDED plans.
Job Corps ARRA Toolkit

To help staff members communicate Job Corps' Recovery Act goals and better understand how ARRA funds are being used in our program, an ARRA-specific Job Corps toolkit has been developed and will be available online this month.

The toolkit provides materials with ARRA/green content and includes: PowerPoint presentations, template letters, informational one-pagers and ARRA logos. A detailed instruction guide on how to use each piece in the toolkit will be available and easily accessible online as well. Be watching for specific announcements regarding the status of the toolkit in the coming weeks.

Please send photos of students using the new computers to OJC.ARR@DOL.GOV, or if you're an ARRA Regional monitor, upload them to GreenSnap at www.greensnap.org. These photos may be featured in an upcoming e-newsletter.

Administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, Job Corps is the nation's largest career technical training and education program for students ages 16 through 24. Job Corps is a U.S. Department of Labor Equal Opportunity Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD/TTY telephone number is (800) 733-JOBS.