Dear Job Corps Staff,

As last week marked the anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), I wanted to take the time to thank everyone again for their hard work and dedication to Job Corps’ ARRA initiatives. Since receiving our funds last summer, we have made great strides in implementing and promoting these initiatives across the country. I’m extremely proud of Job Corps’ role in our country’s economic recovery as several of our ARRA construction projects have created jobs for Americans and made a difference in our local communities. Our students understand what it means to be environmental stewards, and they are demonstrating their enthusiasm every day through the launch of center wide recycling programs, and the implementation of green committees and green student government officers. Be on the lookout for more information regarding Job Corps’ ARRA anniversary in the next edition of the R&R Field Report.

In the meantime, however, planning continues and excitement is building for our Earth Day Every Day program. The Earth Day Every Day programming booklet (see Program Instruction Notice 09-33) is now available on the ARRA page of the Job Corps Community Web site. Spend time reading and familiarizing yourself with the recommended activities for April 19-23. Get started planning ahead to make sure Earth Day Every Day Week is a success! Additional instructions on procuring the ARRA tree, tree-marker plaque and photographer information were also recently released in Program Instruction Notice 09-36. The National Office expects full participation, so set up committees to help organize preparations and make sure everyone on-center gets involved in the fun. The celebration will be here before you know it.

On the warmer West Coast two weeks ago, our Los Angeles Job Corps Center officially presented plans for the center’s new 154,000-square-foot urban campus to local dignitaries and special guests at a construction celebration. Through a 20-year lease agreement, this is one of Job Corps’ largest projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Please remember to keep sending in photos and information concerning all of your ARRA projects to OJC.ARRAA@dol.gov, and if you are an ARRA monitor, keep uploading your photographs to www.greensnap.org.

Sincerely,

Lynn A. Intrepidi
Interim National Director
Los Angeles Job Corps Urban Campus Construction Celebration

Students and staff of the Los Angeles Job Corps Center helped present the construction plans for the new Los Angeles Job Corps Urban Campus to more than 400 guests and dignitaries at a Feb. 11 construction celebration. The event, held adjacent to the construction site of the new building, included remarks from City Councilmember Jan Perry, U.S. Rep. Diane Watson and several Job Corps representatives.

"Located right in the heart of downtown Los Angeles and spread out over several city blocks, our students and staff face a unique set of challenges every day," said Los Angeles Job Corps Center Director Ruby Brown. "No one deserves a new campus more than they do. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to help turn the vision for this new building into a reality."

The project is one of the largest recipients of Job Corps' American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, with the purchase of a 20-year lease agreement for the new building with an estimated value of $82 million. The celebration was hosted by the operator of the Los Angeles Job Corps Center – the YWCA of Greater Los Angeles, and included a short program to thank the organizations and institutions that contributed to the success of the new Urban Campus.

The 154,000-square-foot facility is centered in Los Angeles' South Park business district and will feature a state-of-the-art library, computer lab, modernized medical and dental clinic and infirmary, classrooms, and new dormitories for 400 students. Once complete, the building will also seek Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification status and feature various green elements, such as water-efficient landscaping and energy-efficient air conditioning units. To hear more details about the Urban Campus' green construction elements, please click on the link below.

Video of Construction Project Manager David Blankmeyer from PCL Construction Services.

The construction celebration was a huge success, and the excitement among all attendees was evident as they examined the three-dimensional model of the new building. Guests were also invited to drop selected items into a commemorative time capsule, which will be sealed and displayed in the lobby of the new Urban Campus for the next 20 years.

Los Angeles Job Corps students showcased the center’s career technical training areas and met with business owners to discuss future hiring opportunities. "I'm excited to be here today to celebrate our new campus," said

Los Angeles HBI students pose with YWCA CEO Faye Washington before the ceremony.

Los Angeles Job Corps students showcase the center's career technical training areas.

Los Angeles student displays his health care training skills to event attendees.

• Two electric trucks with dumping and scissor-lift capabilities for the maintenance department.
• A food waste pulper for the cafeteria to reduce kitchen water consumption by 40 percent and kitchen waste by 70 percent.

"We are proud of the impact the recovery funds are already having on our center and students," said Tongue Point Center Director Kim Shillinger. "We invited Congressman Wu to see the changes and positive results firsthand and to personally thank him for his efforts on behalf of the students here at Tongue Point."

In addition to cutting the first piece of birthday cake and touring part of the campus in one of the center's two new electric vehicles, Rep. Wu also encouraged the Tongue Point students to work hard and make a brighter future for themselves and for America.

"Without this program you might be on a different track in life," said Rep. Wu. "If you try hard after you finish your training here, you will have success in life.

If you have news to share about your center and want to be featured in a center spotlight, please e-mail OJC.ARR@DOL.GOV.
Los Angeles Business Technology student Samantha James. "The building will be a great new place to live; it will be safe for the students and environmentally friendly as well."

To hear some of the Los Angeles students talk about their impressions of the new building, please click here.

To see more pictures from the event please click here.

Los Angeles Job Corps Students To Help Build New Urban Campus

As work on the new Los Angeles Job Corps Urban Campus moves into the next phase of construction, students in the Homebuilders Institute (HBI) career technical training area are updating their resumes and polishing their interviewing skills to prepare for the available apprenticeship positions offered through the contractor (PCL Construction Services, Inc.) and subcontractors for the project.

"I'm very excited about the possible opportunity to work on the new building," said Los Angeles HBI student Angel Chachill. "My particular area of expertise is drywall installation, and I'm hoping a job working on the Urban Campus will help take my skills to the next level and give me the extra experience I need to get a full-time career after Job Corps."

To listen to Los Angeles HBI students talk about the Urban Campus apprenticeship program and the new building features, please click here.

The construction of the new Los Angeles Job Corps Urban Campus is expected to generate more than 900 jobs, including 60 positions dedicated for Job Corps students. Los Angeles students hired by the contractor and subcontractors will receive hands-on training in various construction trades, such as bricklaying and plumbing, and electrical and tile work. They will learn how to trouble-shoot and face real challenges that take place on a construction site every day.

"The purpose of the program is not only to give students a job and some extra training," said PCL Construction Project Manager David Blankmeyer. "We want to prepare them for long-term careers; they are the future of the construction industry."

To hear more about how students will play a role in the construction of the new Job Corps facility, please click here.

The Los Angeles Job Corps Urban Campus is expected to open in November 2011 and is currently one of the few new construction projects under way in the downtown Los Angeles area.

Please send photos of students using the new computers to OJC.ARRAR@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.