



JOB CORPS'

R&R Field Report

Aiding in America's Recovery and Reinvesting in Our Future



ARRA E-newsletter Volume 9

From the National Office of Job Corps

Dear Job Corps Staff,

As the new National Director for the Office of Job Corps, I wanted to start my first R&R Field Report letter by saying how honored I am to be in this position, and to have the opportunity to work with all of you to position Job Corps as the best training and education program in the country.

Having worked directly with Job Corps for the past 13 years, I am passionate about the program and know firsthand what it takes to make the program successful for our students. Job Corps continues to move in the right direction based on the demands of the current workforce, and I am impressed with all of its current initiatives and immediate plans for the future.

In my first several days as National Director, one of my top priorities has been getting up to speed on Job Corps' green initiatives and the projects made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). I have thoroughly enjoyed reading and hearing about all of Job Corps' current ARRA projects, especially those that have allowed students to get involved and make a difference at centers across the country.

Every Job Corps staff member should be proud of the amazing work taking place on centers nationwide; the progress made in less than a year is impressive and admirable.

These efforts are extremely important, not only to the success of our students, but also to the success of our country's economic recovery and environmental sustainability. They will continue to be a top priority for the National Office and all Job Corps staff and students. I would remind everyone that the Department has set a goal that 70 percent of our funding be expended by September 30, 2010. I know you will continue to stay motivated and work hard to make sure we reach and exceed this goal.

I want to thank each of you for doing your part to make Job Corps the outstanding program it is today. I also want to thank Lynn Intrepidi, who closed a long and successful career with Job Corps as Interim National Director. I pledge that I will work very hard to follow her example and add to her success.

Sincerely,

Edna Primrose
National Director



Earth Day Every Day Reminders

Don't forget to review the *Earth Day Every Day* programming booklet and share its schedule of creative activities with students and center staff. For example, **Earth Hour is coming up on Saturday, March 27**, and all centers are strongly encouraged to participate by turning out their lights from **7:30 to 8:30 p.m.**; check the programming booklet for ideas on how to make Earth Hour participation a fun event for everyone.

By now all centers should have received their *Earth Day Every Day* posters to display in different locations on campus. These are designed to raise environmental awareness among students and staff and serve as friendly reminders to be more energy-efficient.



Miami Job Corps Center business community liaison Lori Trujillo proudly displays EDED posters on center.

Center Spotlight: Tulsa Job Corps Center



Tulsa Job Corps student, Jonathon Falgout, installs the valve on the new energy-efficient hot water heater.

Working alongside their Home Building Institute (HBI) Instructor and local contractor K&M Shillingford, Tulsa Job Corps Center Facilities Maintenance students learned how to install a new energy-efficient hot water unit that was purchased with ARRA funds for the center's cafeteria.

"I had a lot of fun working with my classmates and instructor on this project," said Tulsa Job Corps student Marissa Justice. "We got to test out our new skills and learn about green technology at the same time. I feel better prepared for maintenance industry jobs that will require knowledge of energy-efficient equipment."

The new unit, which meets the Oklahoma State Department of Health requirements for energy efficiency, stays dormant (to use less energy) until it receives a signal from the main hot water tank, indicating that the water temperature is below 120 degrees. Upon receiving the signal, the hot water unit immediately provides energy to heat the main hot water tank and serves as a backup system in the event that the water temperature should drop.

To see pictures of Tulsa students installing the new hot water system, please [click here](#).

Center Spotlight: North Texas Job Corps Center



Students are working together to completely renovate North Texas Job Corps Center campus buildings.



Earth Day Every Day Center Recognition Award Winners

Congratulations to all of our *Earth Day Every Day* Center Recognition Award winners. In an effort to share best practices, each of the six centers listed below has been recognized by the National Office for its dedication to cutting back on energy usage through green technology and environmentally friendly projects. All of the six regional winners have actively been recycling, getting students involved with green committees, and replacing older, less efficient appliances to ensure that they are energy-efficient. It would be impossible to mention every single thing that all of these centers are doing to go green, but details about some of their important projects are below.

Atlanta Region Winner:

The **Brunswick Job Corps Center** reduced the number of lightbulbs and the amount of energy used on center by installing T8 energy-saving fixtures. A local vendor offered the energy-efficient bulbs to the center at a discounted rate, reducing the overall cost. They also have a longer shelf life and burn brighter, allowing the center to purchase fewer bulbs over time. Brunswick also installed key switches to ensure that all lights are off when they are not in use.

Brunswick is working with Georgia Power to implement the T8 fixture installation, and it is reported that the center could potentially save up to \$5,000 on its electric expenses.

Boston Region Winner:

The **Penobscot Job Corps Center** created a "Go Green Committee" on campus composed of 25 students who oversee green projects and initiatives on center. The center has also started an Academy Energy and Water Conservation and Recycling Committee that focuses on seeking out new conservation projects for the center. In addition, each dorm wing has an appointed "green ambassador" to remind their peers to recycle, turn off lights, and take steps to be more environmentally conscious.



Penobscot students go green!

The Penobscot Job Corps Center has also gotten involved in their community, participating in a local area Earth Day cleanup of the Penobscot riverbed last year. [Click here to see a photo of students helping clean the Penobscot riverbed.](#)

Chicago Region Winner:

The **Paul Simon Chicago Job Corps Center** established a permanent center committee, the Bionic Green Team, composed of students and staff members, to address ways the center can be more sustainable. So far, the center has installed systems to cut down on the use of paper and purchased software that converts faxes directly to e-mail and digitally stores documents. They have also created and held competitions among the dormitories to determine which dorm uses the least amount of energy per month. Through these efforts, the center has reduced its energy usage by 7.81 percent and saved the center approximately \$8,000.

Dallas Region Winner:

The **Shreveport Job Corps Center** purchased an abandoned house near the center to convert it into a premier "green house," with the goal of constructing a home that is 100 percent green, including all furnishings and utensils. Energy for the house will come from solar and wind power, and water will be supplied by a rainwater-capture system. Work-based learning students at the Shreveport Job Corps Center have begun renovating the house to make it energy-efficient.

Once completed, the house will serve as a model for best practices and green technologies. It will display bamboo cookware, environmentally friendly cleaning supplies, natural lighting, solar panels, and toilets that use captured rainwater.



Shreveport Job Corps students practice their green training skills on a local abandoned house.

Not too far from Tulsa, at the North Texas Job Corps Center, students are also busy practicing their green training skills on a project to improve four career technical training buildings. More than 40 students in six construction training areas are working together to completely renovate the center's electrical, concrete masonry, and brick masonry training buildings.

"Receiving a portion of Job Corps' ARRA funds for this renovation was a win-win situation for our center," said North Texas Career Technical Skills Training Coordinator Paul Dawson. "Not only will we have more sustainable facilities that will cut our center's energy usage by at least 30 percent, but our students are receiving valuable, hands-on green training experience as they work on different aspects of the four buildings."

Each construction training area is responsible for the following renovation projects:

- Facilities Maintenance – students are installing attic exhaust fans for each building to keep them cool and conserve energy.
- Carpentry – students are installing attic insulation and preparing classroom and office walls for wainscoting and installation upgrades.
- Painting – students are applying radiant barrier paint to the inside of the attic roof and the exterior of the buildings, which will insulate the buildings from the radiant heat of the sun and lower the center's energy bills.
- Electrical – students are re-directing wire and adding a new split-phase electricity distribution system for the buildings' new energy-efficient HVAC systems.
- Cement Masonry – students are pouring concrete platforms for each new HVAC unit.
- Bricklaying – students are replacing each building's old window air-conditioning units with brick.
- Plumbing – students are installing energy-efficient water heaters and water-control flush valves in the bathrooms to conserve water.

To see pictures of the North Texas Job Corps Center renovation project, please [click here](#).

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.

Philadelphia Region Winner:

The **Muhlenberg Job Corps Center** believes in doing everything necessary to save energy and materials on campus.

In 2009 alone, Muhlenberg Job Corps Center students and staff recycled more than 48,000 pounds of materials, including 18 36-inch-by-12-inch bins of aluminum cans and 145 printer ink cartridges. Currently, they have 12 solar panels on center producing energy to cut down on center operation costs, and they have plans to add two new sets of solar panels in the future. Eventually solar power will provide all of the energy needed to run the Welcome Center on campus. This will save the center more than \$4,000 per year.

San Francisco Region Winner:

The **Treasure Island Job Corps Center** planted an organic garden on a 1-acre plot of land as a joint venture between the Treasure Island Job Corps Center and the Sacramento Job Corps Center. The garden will provide organic vegetables to the center and to local residents while also promoting healthy lifestyles and educating students about gardening, composting, and ecology.

Students will work to install solar panels, garden lights, heat lamps, and an irrigation system in the garden, and they will plant vegetables, trees, and flowers. From growing its own vegetables from the garden, the center estimates it will save approximately \$5,000 per month on food costs. In addition, the center will be contracting out the removal of power lines from the location for the garden to an outside company, helping to create local jobs.

Congratulations again to all of our regional award winners.

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