



JOB CORPS'

R&R Field Report

Aiding in America's Recovery and Reinvesting in Our Future



ARRA E-Newsletter Volume 17

From the National Office of Job Corps

Dear Job Corps Staff,

I am pleased that this issue of the R&R Field Report will focus on some inspiring young women in our program who are receiving training in "non-traditional" fields and how Job Corps' green training is helping prepare them for successful careers.

This fall, local contractors are working on a highly anticipated new dorm at the Columbia Basin Job Corps Center in Moses Lake, Wash., which will open in early 2011. The modernized facility will provide students with a new place to live and help keep local construction crews busy through the fall months.

We also spotlight the students and staff at the Atterbury Job Corps Center, who are taking steps, big and small, to "green" their center. Students are participating in many different projects to help protect the environment and save energy on campus.

I would like to take a moment in this issue to recognize Job Corps' 46th birthday. I am proud of the positive impact our program has made in the lives of young people for more than four decades, and I am excited for what lies ahead.

As always, please remember that 70 percent of all ARRA funds must be outlaid by Sept. 30. We are in the final stages of this critical goal for the Job Corps program, and we are counting on everyone's support.

Sincerely,

Edna Primrose
National Director

Center Spotlights: Energy-Saving Practices at Atterbury Job Corps Center



Atterbury student Chelsea Allen is excited about the center's new Welding equipment

Atterbury Job Corps Center, located in Edinburg, Ind., is taking a high- and low-technology approach to energy efficiency on campus. From highly sensitive automatic light sensors to freshly planted weeping cherry and blue spruce trees, the center's energy-saving improvement tactics are reducing its impact on the environment.

Students and staff are benefiting from high-technology equipment and features, including energy-efficient washers and dryers in the dorms, automatic light sensors inside buildings and in parking lots throughout campus, a



Non-Traditional Opportunities for Women

According to recent reports, the U.S. energy industry will need to replace 50 percent of its skilled technicians and 40 percent of its engineer and line workers in the coming years because of its aging workforce. At the same time, in the construction trades, employers are faced with re-training many of their employees so that their work meets both state and federal environmental requirements.

In the automotive industry, both manufacturers and mechanics need a different set of skills than were required of their colleagues a generation ago. Today, hybrid vehicles contain more than seven miles of wiring. Workers in the automotive industry need to understand, not only the mechanical operations of cars, but also the electronic components of their operations and how computers control their operations.

Of course, many of these high-growth and in-demand opportunities are in fields that are considered “non-traditional” for female workers. Not at Job Corps.

In our training, neither our instructors nor our students pay attention to “traditions.” At Job Corps, we are focused on student success, on qualified employees, and on tearing down those “traditional” barriers.

Every day, more females are enrolling in career training areas such as Automobile Technician, Carpentry, Facilities Maintenance, Painting, and Welding. These career areas are no longer considered “male-only” industries, and females at centers across the country are taking advantage of Job Corps’ green training opportunities and the career options these fields have to offer.

At the Edison Job Corps Academy, in Edison, N.J., Amanda Wu is learning about LEED certification requirements in her Carpentry career training area and building the skill set and knowledge base necessary to accomplish work according to building codes, while keeping costs down for her employer. To see Amanda in action on a building site, watch this [video](#).

At the North Texas Job Corps Center in McKinney, Texas, Mary Belle Ramirez, one of the center’s first green graduates, received the training and education she needed in her Electrical career training area to start a successful career after graduation. Mary Belle is now working with Primary Integration in Dallas, where one of her current projects is installing carbon dioxide monitors in local school classrooms.

Kiara Kemp, a female Carpentry training student at the Shreveport Job Corps Center in Shreveport, La., has enjoyed learning about appropriate waste management, site protection, and using alternative materials that are safer for the environment. “The construction industry is very focused on sustainability right now,” said Kiara. “If I want to have a successful career as a carpenter, I had better know all about the latest in green construction and what it takes to minimize the



Edison Carpentry student Amanda Wu is learning about safety and site protection while working on a roofing project on center.



Kiara Kamps puts her green training skills to use on center projects every day.

driving simulator that reduces gasoline-burning trips in vehicles for driver’s education classes, and low-power welding equipment used in career training.

Beyond the improvements that ARRA-funded advanced technology is bringing to the center, students and staff are making a difference by becoming personally responsible in reducing their impact on the environment. This low-tech approach has included a campuswide recycling program, the planting of four new trees, and the creation of a half-acre organic garden.

Atterbury’s organic garden is a great example of the ability individuals have to make a big impact. Not only are students learning about the environmental and health benefits of growing their own food that is free from unnatural pesticides and herbicides, they are also contributing to a project that will reduce the amount of gasoline burned during food transportation to the center by producing fruits and vegetables from the garden that will be used in cooking the center’s meals.

“Our students are planting, cultivating, and maintaining the garden,” career transition specialist Deborah Bowling said. “They’ve taken ownership of the project and are dedicated to making it a success.”

[Click here](#) to view a video of Atterbury students who share the center’s excitement about going green.

To see photos of ARRA-funded projects at Atterbury Job Corps Center, [click here](#).

A New Dorm Means

environmental impact of a building or house.” To see a video of Kiara and a local Shreveport contractor working on the construction of a green home on center, [click here](#).

These are just three examples of the many women in Job Corps who are training or have received the training necessary to be leaders in America’s workforce. They are leaders who are responding to the consumers’ and employers’ needs concerning the environmental requirements on the job, and they are leaders in the effort to establish new traditions that are based on qualifications for the job.

At Job Corps, we are focused on opportunities for success, and through ARRA, we have established training that gives our graduates, male and female, the skills they need to get better jobs in the new, green economy.

[Job Corps Women at Work](#)



... 98 ... 99 ... **100% Outlaid!**

We appreciate the hard work of all Job Corps centers that received ARRA funds, and we continue to be impressed with the positive changes made on centers across the country. We want to extend a special congratulations to the centers that have outlaid 100 percent of their ARRA funds to date. They are as follows:

Boston Region

Exeter Job Corps Center
New Haven Job Corps Center
Shriver Job Corps Center

Philadelphia Region

Philadelphia Job Corps Center

Atlanta Region

Gulfport Job Corps Center
Mississippi Job Corps Center
Montgomery Job Corps Center

Dallas Region

Laredo Job Corps Center

San Francisco Region

Phoenix Job Corps Center
San Jose Job Corps Center

New Opportunities at Columbia Basin Job Corps Center



Once complete, the new dorm at Columbia Basin will house 136 students.

Funding for the new dorm construction project at Columbia Basin Job Corps Center in Moses Lake, Wash., came at an opportune time for the center and local contractors. The center, which trains 290 students, has been operating at capacity, and the new dorm will create new space for students and offer local contractors the opportunity to keep crews busy through the fall.

“All the subcontractors we have hired for this project are local to the Washington area,” said Bill Dieter, a project director for general contractor Au Authum Ki, Inc. “Based on their eagerness to get started and wanting to get on the job, the different subcontractors may not necessarily have had to hire people, but they’ve got people on their payroll that they want to keep employed and keep working.”

The center sits on the old Larsen Air Force Base site. Some of the dorms on center were built as long ago as 1951, so the staff and students have been looking forward to new living facilities. The new dorm will allow some of the old housing facilities to be renovated and converted into training and administrative buildings.

“We’re very excited to have construction going on for our

new 136-person dorm. It's been in the works a long time," said center director Peggy Hendren. "We're going to have some very happy students moving into that new dorm."

The \$7.3 million project, funded by ARRA, is expected to be completed in early 2011. To see photos of the construction progress, [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to view a video of the Columbia Basin Job Corps Center's new dorm.

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 (877) 889-5627.