



JOB CORPS'

R&R Field Report

Aiding in America's Recovery and Reinvesting in Our Future



ARRA E-Newsletter Volume 23

From the National Office of Job Corps

Dear Job Corps Staff,

In this edition of the R&R Field Report, we highlight the impact training simulators and electric vehicles make on centers every day. Both students and staff are getting more training time thanks to simulators, which can be used regardless of the weather conditions. Electric vehicles are used for a variety of center tasks, including security patrols and equipment transfer.

The Oneonta Job Corps Academy recently dedicated a new greenhouse complex which has several sustainable features. They include permeable concrete walkways that collect storm water, a gravity-fed pond that collects water runoff and photovoltaic panels that generate solar energy to provide hot water to the greenhouse irrigation system. The greenhouse is maintained by students and staff members of the center's Green Thumb Club.

Culinary Arts students at the Cassadaga Job Corps Academy are expanding their menu by adding the bounty from their organic garden to the cafeteria. Construction students are also applying the skills they've learned to extend the garden's growing season.

As work continues on these and other ARRA projects across the country, I continue to be impressed with the outstanding work our centers are completing. Please remember to share progress by e-mailing information to ojc.arra@dol.gov.

In addition, to help us better document our successes, please share any stories of students who have been hired from one of the green training programs or from working with an ARRA project contractor. Thanks again for everyone's continued efforts and commitment to all ARRA initiatives.

Sincerely,

Edna Primrose
National Director



Job Corps' Green Gadgets

To some, heavy equipment or a driving simulator might appear to be just another everyday training tool. However, these machines impact students and center life by saving energy and money, while keeping students' safety a priority.

For example, students from the Alaska Job Corps Center were able to learn to operate heavy machinery despite Alaska's challenging weather conditions. Simulators allow students to practice their skills in a variety of environments and weather conditions before they train on the real equipment on center.

Oneonta Greenhouse Complex Educates Students and Saves Energy



Students and staff members at the Oneonta Job Corps Academy celebrate the center's new greenhouse complex at a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

A greenhouse complex at the Oneonta Job Corps Academy is making the campus more sustainable and will soon contribute to the well-being of the surrounding community.

Solar energy is collected to provide hot water to the greenhouse, and photovoltaic panels generate electrical power by converting solar radiation into direct-current electricity. The system generates enough electricity to power the entire complex.

Students built a walkway surrounding the greenhouse using pervious concrete, which allows storm water to seep through the concrete into the ground and be recharged as groundwater. A gravity-fed pond uses natural water runoff and solar pumps to circulate water to the greenhouse irrigation system.



Cement Masonry students contributed to the project by building a walkway surrounding the greenhouse.



Students at the Alaska Job Corps Center use training simulators to practice operating heavy equipment. These simulators now allow them the opportunity to train year-round.

“There are multiple reasons for having a simulator,” said Tony Calkins, Director of Driver Education at the Gary Job Corps Center. “The equipment is energy-efficient, and you’re not burning gas or wearing out tires the way you would on a real vehicle. If you have students who are hesitant about driving, you can put them on a simulator and get their confidence up. It makes for a better driving experience when they get out onto the real roads.”

Training simulators and electric vehicles were the most popular pieces of equipment purchased, with 73 centers purchasing simulators and 97 purchasing electric vehicles. The simulators are used for training purposes and as instructional tools to educate students about the importance of saving energy. The electric vehicles are used for a variety of daily center support tasks, including security patrols and equipment transfer.



A Guthrie Job Corps student sharpens his driving skills while practicing on the center’s driver education simulator.

ARRA-funded equipment is also helping centers reduce their carbon footprint by allowing them to replace traditional gas vehicles with two different types of energy-efficient electric vehicles. Centers also no longer need to lease GSA vehicles because they are using their newly purchased hybrid vehicles for training purposes and driver education.

Low-speed utility vehicles resembling golf carts are used for general purposes on center, including security patrols, while larger electric-powered buses and trucks are used for longer trips and for transporting materials and supplies across campuses.

Sustainability is one of the first concepts students learn about on center. New students entering Oneonta are educated about the greenhouse complex during their first week on campus. The Green Thumb Club, made up of staff members and students with horticultural interests, maintains the greenhouse.

Club members ensure the greenhouse benefits the center and the community. The Club aims to have plants growing in the greenhouse year-round, with a large crop of fruits and vegetables grown during the summer months. As the complex becomes more productive, the Club will look to partner with and provide produce to organizations such as Meals on Wheels, local farmers’ markets, and other community-based organizations.

To view photos of Oneonta Job Corps Academy’s greenhouse complex, [click here](#).

Cassadaga Job Corps Students Go Local and Organic



Students at the Cassadaga Job Corps Academy maintain an on-center garden that produces fresh vegetables for their cafeteria.

Students at the Cassadaga Job Corps Academy are exploring healthier lifestyles by adding fresh, locally grown options to their center cafeteria. They are also getting involved with a group that raises awareness of the importance of buying locally.

These healthy initiatives were driven from an event students and staff members attended this past summer called Locavore Kids. Cassadaga Job Corps Academy Culinary Arts students attended the event at [Barlow’s Mill](#), a locally owned

Centers that purchased electric vehicles are experiencing fuel cost savings at such a high rate that Job Corps is expected to save \$3 million to \$5 million over the first 3 years following full implementation.



Landscaping students at the Penobscot Job Corps Center are learning how to use electric mowers as part of the training.



Welding students at the Muhlenberg Job Corps Center were excited to begin training on the center's new simulators.

To view pictures of Job Corps electric vehicles, [click here](#).

organic farm, where they learned about buying local produce and received organic gardening tips for their on-center garden. The Culinary students provided a cooking demonstration using vegetables grown in their center's garden and worked at a booth providing samples of locally grown organic vegetables.



Culinary Arts students help prepare organic fruits and vegetables.

"Our community partners have been key in teaching our students the importance of healthy eating and organic gardening. I'm pleased to see so many students expressing an interest in gardening, and I hope it will teach them to lead healthier lives when they leave Job Corps," said Janet Forbes, the Business and Community Liaison at the Cassadaga Job Corps Academy.

Students and staff began enjoying the benefits of eating fresh produce from their organic garden last summer. Students have enjoyed maintaining the garden, which includes tomatoes, squash, green peppers, and cilantro.

Construction students are also helping to expand the garden through the use of cold frames, which will extend the garden's growing season by protecting plants against cold weather. A local master gardener recently visited the center and showed the students how to build the frames.

When the weather finally warms up this spring, you'll know where to find the Cassadaga Job Corps Academy students: in the garden!

[Click here](#) to see photos from the Locavore Kids event.

Watch a video of the Cassadaga Job Corps Academy students at the Locavore Kids event [here](#).