



JOB CORPS'

# R&R Field Report

Aiding in America's Recovery and Reinvesting in Our Future



ARRA E-newsletter Volume 12

## From the National Office of Job Corps

Dear Job Corps Staff,

Thanks again to everyone who participated in last month's *Earth Day Every Day (EDED)* Week. It was a proud week for Job Corps – thanks to students, staff, and contractors for your dedication and cooperation. This edition of the R&R Field Report is dedicated to recognizing all of the hard work and planning each center put into making the entire week a huge success.

*EDED* Week was full of activities from hosting community events on Job Corps' green initiatives to holding recycling competitions to cut back on the amount of waste created on campus. Every center succeeded in showcasing Job Corps' American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)-funded projects on both the local and national levels.

You have submitted impressive photos and write-ups from your events, and we are excited to feature some of them in this edition. While this is only a snapshot of all the wonderful projects, we believe it showcases how centers from various Regions used a creative approach to portray the program's ARRA goals.

I would like to thank Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and ETA Assistant Secretary Jane Oates for presenting the National Green Recognition Award at the Earth Day awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. I would also like to recognize Crystal Turner, from Muhlenberg Job Corps Center, who spoke on behalf of her fellow students and staff on the great work and green efforts they are implementing on center. In addition, I want to acknowledge the more than 35 centers that had students participate in Secretary Solis's Web chat following the ceremony. It was a great opportunity for students to engage on a national level, and they impressed everyone with more than 800 questions about green initiatives, the economy, career training, and the workforce. Finally, I want to commend the solar panel installation students from the Woodstock Job Corps Center for representing our program by hosting a booth at the Washington D.C. Earth Day celebration event.

All of the *EDED* Week activities were a huge accomplishment, but it's important now to focus our attention on completing ARRA-funded projects nationwide. As you know, 100 percent of ARRA funds must be obligated by June 30, 2010, and the majority of work must be completed by September 30, 2010. Please keep up the hard work.

Sincerely,

Edna Primrose  
National Director

### Center Spotlight: Muhlenberg Job Corps Center

Washington, D.C., Trip in  
Review



Muhlenberg Job Corps Center students and center director Kenny Brown volunteer at the National Zoo Earth Day Cleanup while visiting Washington, D.C.

Eight students from Muhlenberg Job Corps Center have returned to Greenville, Ky., following a whirlwind trip to Washington, D.C., from April 21 to 24. While thousands of students at centers across the nation were participating in the *Earth Day Every Day* Week activities, Muhlenberg's Micka Blair, Krystal Broomes, Quinton Ross Condiff, Jessica Howard, Rachel Lanier, Jonathan Martin, Orlando Mitchell, and Crystal Turner traveled more than 700 miles to the nation's capital to represent their center in receiving the Job Corps National Green Center Recognition Award.

The *EDED* awards ceremony, held on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, at the U.S. Department of Labor, was the perfect start to the students' experience in D.C. During their three-day trip, these students didn't spare any time in seeing the best the city has to offer, from meeting the Secretary of Labor to visiting some of our nation's most famous landmarks, and participating in the nation's largest Earth Day celebration.

Prior to and following the ceremony, Muhlenberg students had the opportunity to see more of the capital city. Students visited landmarks



## Earth Day IS Every Day

Job Corps centers across the country celebrated the 40th anniversary of Earth Day with a week of events centered around conservation and sustainability. Students cleaned up parks, conducted energy audits, and even dressed up as Earth-friendly mascots.

From late March, until April 23, students and staff at Job Corps participated in green-themed events beginning with Earth Hour on March 27, and culminating with a weeklong celebration (Monday, April 19 - Friday, April 23) that included a variety of fun and creative activities.

The week began with a Kickoff Rally, where centers participated in weeklong recycling competitions and unveiled their green mascots. Tuesday saw centers inviting local community members and organizations to a green fair, while Wednesday sent students on an energy audit scavenger hunt, seeking out ways to make the center more energy-efficient.

On Thursday, April 22, students and staff celebrated the 40th anniversary of Earth Day by planting a tree on center, or celebrating indoors with an *Earth Day Every Day* rally, allowing students to share their enthusiasm.

Centers planned their own activities for "Freestyle Friday" and closed a very successful and memorable week that no doubt has changed the way Job Corps students and staff think and act when it comes to the environment.

Examples and photos of how centers celebrated during *Earth Day Every Day* Week are below:



### Earth Hour

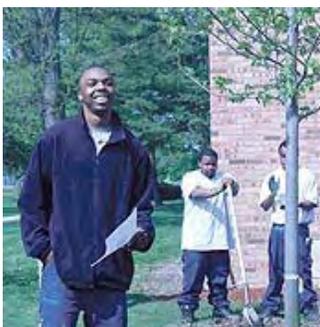
Jacksonville Job Corps Center held a "Lights Out" party to celebrate Earth Hour, and raise awareness about environmental issues, specifically the importance of conserving energy. Students attended a centerwide cookout, played table games, and studied while using flashlights, which they kept as party favors.



### Global Days of Service

Global Days of Service, which was held April 17 and 18, was another great volunteer opportunity for students to put their green training into action. The Gary Job Corps Center showed its dedication to helping the environment by cleaning up a stream in a local park.

### Earth Day Every Day Week



**What's Your Green Style?** – To showcase his green style, Joliet Job Corps Center student, Mitchell Lilly, wrote an inspiring essay that was chosen as the winner of the center's "What's Your Green Style?" competition. The competition was designed so students could share their feelings about Earth Day in a poem, poster, or other form of artwork. Mitchell's essay was read during the center's tree-planting ceremony on Thursday and at a Joliet City Council meeting on May 5.

[Read Mitchell's essay »](#)

Students from the Pine Ridge Job Corps Center chose to express their "Green Style" through a song they wrote in the language

including the White House, the National World War II Memorial, the Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Students were also able to experience and participate in D.C.'s Earth Day celebration. In between stops at monuments and memorials, they toured the Earth Day exhibits on the National Mall, where more than 100,000 people gathered in celebration of the environment. Before heading back to Kentucky, the students also participated in an Earth Day cleanup at the National Zoo.

As members of Muhlenberg's student green advisory board, these students viewed this trip as an opportunity to learn more about green practices and take key messages back to the Job Corps community.

"This experience has taught our students that being green is a lifestyle commitment," said Kenny Brown, center director of Muhlenberg Job Corps Center. "It's my hope that Muhlenberg will continue to serve as an environmental ambassador for the Job Corps program and for our greater community."

### Keeping It Green

Congratulations to the second round of *Earth Day Every Day* Demand-side Management Award winners. Two winners from each Region were chosen for their green efforts in the following areas: energy conservation; water conservation; installation of energy-efficient materials, including plumbing, electrical equipment, windows, and roofs; *EDED* proposals; green CTST projects; and promoting a green center culture.

**Atlanta Region winners:**  
Homestead Job Corps Center  
Brunswick Job Corps Center

**Boston Region winners:**  
Arecibo Job Corps Center  
Barranquitas Job Corps Center

**Chicago Region winners:**  
Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center  
St. Louis Job Corps Center

Karen (kuh-ren). To view a video of them singing, [click here](#).

**EDED Green Mascot** – A number of centers came up with very stylish and creative green center mascots for the week. To view photos of some of the mascots, [click here](#).



**Recycling Mania!** – At the beginning of *EDED* week, 96 Job Corps centers were provided with special bins to collect recyclable materials throughout the week as part of a centerwide competition. The Abraham Lincoln dormitory at the Atterbury Job Corps Center won its Recycling Mania! competition, collecting more than 24 pounds of recyclables.



**Go Green Fair** – As part of Tuesday's activity, the Go Green Fair, the David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center hosted local companies that provide the center's green supplies to run booths at the fair for students to learn more about green employers. This was a great opportunity for students to network with local employers and talk about the green training skills they are receiving in their career areas.



**Energy Audit** – On Wednesday, students at the Westover Job Corps Center used a worksheet created by center staff to conduct an energy audit of their campus. The students were split into several groups, and were then given 45 minutes to survey the campus to find ways they felt they could make the center more energy-efficient. They checked things such as the lighting fixtures, and the efficiency of the plumbing. At the end of the audit, students submitted their worksheets to the center director and center green committee with recommendations of how to conserve energy on center.

**Tree-Planting Ceremony** – To celebrate the official date of Earth Day, each contractor-operated Job Corps center received funding to purchase a tree and tree-marker plaque to commemorate *EDED* Week. Centers across the country submitted photos of their tree selections and ceremony. [You can see many of them here](#).



**Path to a Greener World** – To remember their green efforts during *EDED* Week, students were encouraged to make personalized garden stones as symbols of their Path to a Greener World. The Delaware Valley Job Corps Center students painted stones that were then placed around the new tree they helped to plant on center. [Hear from a student at the Woodland Job Corps Center »](#)

**Earth Day Rally** – To conclude Thursday's celebration, the Old Dominion Job Corps Center staff brought together symbols from events of previous days, including their decorated stones from the Path to a Greener World activity, the recyclables they collected throughout the week, and

**Dallas Region winners:**  
Gary Job Corps Center  
Carville Job Corps Center

**Philadelphia Region winners:**  
Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center  
Muhlenberg Job Corps Center

**San Francisco Region winners:**  
San Diego Job Corps Center  
Los Angeles Job Corps Center

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## Hug Your Tree

With *Earth Day Every Day* Week now complete, it is important to remember to care for the tree you planted on Earth Day. Below are a few helpful tips to help your tree grow:

- Remember to water your tree often. Water is the most important element in caring for your new tree. As the tree's roots grow, the tree needs to be watered less frequently. A large tree may need to be watered for 3 to 4 years.

- To preserve moisture in the soil, place 2 to 4 inches of mulch, wood chips, or shredded bark around the trees. Be sure to leave about 6 inches of space around the trunk of the tree to discourage insects or rodents.

- Prune only dead branches or broken or crossing branches. Try to keep most of the lower branches in order to help stabilize the tree.

- Until the roots have had a chance to grow into the ground, it is not necessary to fertilize your tree.

- If you live in a windy area or have planted a top-heavy tree, it may be necessary to stake your tree for support.

With proper care, your tree will be a lasting reminder that Earth Day is every day.

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If you have news to share about your center and want to be featured in a center spotlight, please e-mail [oic.arra@dol.gov](mailto:oic.arra@dol.gov).



decorative *EDED* posters with conservation tips to remind students of what they had learned during the week.



**Freestyle Friday** – On Friday, all centers were given the opportunity to plan and execute a green activity of their choice. The Detroit Job Corps Center spent Friday helping the environment by cleaning up Orange Lawn Park, an abandoned park near the center. Students were invited by State Representative David E. Nathan to partner with Home Depot and a local middle school to help remove trash, debris, and overgrown vegetation from the site.

To view more photos from *EDED* activities on center, [click here](#).

To hear from several center directors about their centers' *EDED* activities, [click here](#).

To view some of the media attention from *Earth Day Every Day Week* efforts, [click here](#).

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Please send photos of students and staff to [ojc.arra@dol.gov](mailto:ojc.arra@dol.gov), or upload them to GreenSnap at [www.greensnap.org](http://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.