



JOB CORPS'

R&R Field Report

Aiding in America's Recovery and Reinvesting in Our Future



ARRA E-Newsletter Volume 21

From the National Office of Job Corps

Dear Job Corps Staff,

As I'm sure many of you remember, we began this year with aggressive ARRA-related goals and many milestones to accomplish. As 2010 comes to an end, I want to say how proud I am to be a part of this program and to work with such dedicated individuals every day. Thanks to the focus and hard work of Job Corps' staff and students, we were able to accomplish and, in some cases, even exceed our ARRA goals. In this last issue of the 2010 *R & R Field Report*, we kick off the newsletter with a recap, "*ARRA – A Year in Review*," to reflect on the outstanding progress we've made in the past 12 months and to highlight a few of our major accomplishments.

This issue also highlights a recent accomplishment – the introduction of a new advanced training program, Weatherization Technician, which launched at three centers this fall and is teaching students how to reduce home energy consumption. This is the first career technical training area that is focused primarily on energy efficiency.

Staff and students are still hard at work on various center projects, including those at the Brunswick and Keystone centers. At the Brunswick Job Corps Center, students who come from urban areas where green space is limited are discovering gardening. Center staff hope that these students will take home a green thumb when they graduate from Job Corps!

At Keystone Job Corps Center, a road paving project meant employment for 18 local contractor employees, and brought smoother, safer roads to the center.

Again, I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to you for your hard work in 2010. Our ARRA projects and initiatives are making positive changes for our students, our centers, our economy, and our environment. I look forward to continued progress in 2011, and I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Edna Primrose
National Director



ARRA – A Year in Review

As 2011 approaches, we'd like to take a look back at all we've accomplished this past year. The following list gives a glimpse into Job Corps' ARRA funds at work.

Keystone Job Corps Center Boosts Local Economy With Paving Project



A local construction employee works diligently on the center's new paving project.

The road-paving project at Keystone Job Corps Center in Drums, Pa., has brought smiles to the faces of not only the students and staff on center, but also the local construction company hired to complete the project. A local construction company was hired to rip out the old blacktop on most of the center's roads and parking lots and replace it with a new base and top coat. The construction company also completely rebuilt some of the center's roads, so Keystone residents, employees, and visitors will now enjoy an exceptionally smooth ride for years to come.

The \$633,000 project kept 18 employees busy during August and September, with six crew members preparing the old roads and parking lots on center for construction, and 12 crew members carrying out the rebuilding and repaving. All of the company's materials are manufactured locally, including the 4,000 tons of asphalt used at Keystone.

"The roads and parking lots at Keystone were in very bad shape, so we couldn't have been more excited to see more than \$600,000 in stimulus money come to us for a major paving project," said Mike Martine, Deputy Director at Keystone Job Corps Center. "It was incredible to watch everything come together. The workers were out here working every day, and it feels good to know that our ARRA funding generated work for a construction company based



- More than **100,000 Job Corps students** across the United States have been given the opportunity to participate in ARRA-funded activities, including Green Training initiatives, rehabilitation projects, and center-wide green practices.



- **\$212 million** was allocated to more than **1,000 shovel-ready construction projects** at more than **60 centers**.



- Approximately **16 solar and wind technology projects** have been implemented at centers nationwide.



- **\$5 million** was allocated for the purchase of electric and hybrid vehicles at **97 Job Corps centers**.



- Approximately **\$7.8 million** has been used to replace older, less energy-efficient computers with **11,028 new Energy Star PCs**.

right here in our neighborhood. We're proud to help boost our local economy, and we're so pleased with the way everything turned out. Things were awfully bumpy before, but now we can all drive through the center on smooth roads."

Keystone Job Corps Center also used ARRA funds to complete numerous other construction and improvement projects during 2010 to make the center more environmentally friendly. New energy-efficient asphalt-shingle roofing featuring solar reflectors was added to several buildings on campus, and T-12 lightbulbs were replaced with new energy-efficient T-8 lightbulbs across the center.

In addition, two electric cars and an electric van were purchased for maintenance and security officers to drive on center, and plumbing students received hands-on training in installing low-flow toilets and showerheads in numerous dormitories.

To hear from Keystone's Deputy Director about the paving project, click [here](#).

To view additional photos of projects at Keystone Job Corps Center, click [here](#).

Brunswick Job Corps Center Branches Out



When Brunswick Job Corps Center's Landscaping students began working on the center's ARRA-funded organic garden, many of them had never seen a garden before, much less worked toward harvesting one. The sense of discovery and wonder that comes with planting a small seed, nurturing it, and watching it become food right before your eyes, was new and exciting to the students.

Working with their Landscaping instructors, the students took a weed-infested area and tilled it using hoes, rakes, and shovels to prepare it for planting. They planted a variety of vegetables,



- Construction projects have commenced on more than **68 centers**.



- Eight students from the **Muhlenberg Job Corps Center** traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive the Job Corps National *Earth Day Every Day* Green Center **Recognition Award**. The Muhlenberg center was selected as the winner for this award for its **outstanding efforts** in energy conservation, water conservation, installation of energy-efficient materials, EDED proposals, and green career technical student training projects.



- **Oneonta Job Corps Center** officially opened a **greenhouse complex** on Oct. 28.



- **Muhlenberg Job Corps Center** celebrated the completion of a **new gymnasium** on Oct. 26 with a ribbon-cutting.

including okra, tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, straightneck squash, crookneck squash, banana peppers, and sweet peppers, all of which turned out to be a success.

In fact, Culinary Arts instructor Mary Quince was so impressed with the garden's bounty that she started using the tomatoes, peppers, and okra in the center's cafeteria.

"The students really enjoyed it and got involved because each day something changed in the garden – something grew an inch or started producing a flower – so every day was a new experience for them," Landscaping instructor Kevin Brandon said. "A lot of our students are inner-city students who had never seen a garden and didn't know where a tomato came from, so it exposed them to seeing a lot of things that they may never see at home."

The garden became so popular on campus that word spread throughout the center, and staff members and other students would take daily trips to the garden to see what had grown since the previous day.

"We were all a little nervous that the plants wouldn't grow since it was our first time to grow a garden, but it turned out great," Landscaping student Trisdon Manson said. "Our efforts paid off as all seeds and bulbs grew and bloomed according to plan."

Just like First Lady Michelle Obama's bountiful White House garden, Brunswick Job Corps' garden is opening students' eyes to a whole new world of healthy, locally grown fruits and vegetables that will, in turn, help them educate their families and communities.

To view additional photos, click [here](#).



- 3 new dorms are being built at the St. Louis Job Corps Center. Several other new dorm projects are under way.



- Substantial progress has been made on the construction of the **new Ottumwa Job Corps Center** as it gets ready to open next year.



Training Program Focused on Energy Efficiency Launches At Job Corps Centers

With winter weather settling in, high heating bills have many people thinking about energy efficiency in their homes this year.

Three Job Corps centers have begun offering students a new Weatherization Technician advanced training program that focuses primarily on energy efficiency. The program teaches students with a construction background green skills that will make them more employable in the workforce.



Weatherization Technician students at Potomac showcase their weatherization training techniques and new equipment.

The Weatherization Technician advanced training program launched at the Potomac Job Corps Center, the Detroit Job Corps Center, and the Pittsburgh Job Corps Center on Oct. 1, 2010. To qualify, students are required to have completed the Electrical, Facilities Maintenance, Plumbing, Carpentry, or Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) career technical training programs.

"We've already been out in the community meeting with employer partners, and

we've found that graduates from this program will be in high demand," said Jeffrey Barton, center director of the Potomac Job Corps Center. "Our top priority is to make sure our students receive the most cutting-edge training and skills to be successful, and thanks to the Recovery Act funds, we're able to add an additional career technical training program that supports this goal."

Lasting approximately 4 months, the new program teaches students weatherization building science, methods to identify air leakage and other building-efficiency weaknesses, ducting, and venting. The program also prepares students to receive the Residential Building Envelope Accessible Areas Air Leakage Control Installer certification offered by the Building Performance Institute (BPI).

The Potomac Job Corps Center, which was awarded \$76,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to launch the Weatherization Technician program, has hired an instructor and purchased new materials for the new program. Fifteen slots are available to interested students at Potomac, and several students have already enrolled in the program.

Potomac has also developed a relationship with Capitol Energy Group, a Washington, D.C.- based employer specializing in weatherization techniques. Capitol Energy Group played a valuable role in the addition of this new program by offering advice on training guidelines and expressing interest in hiring Job Corps graduates from the program.

"Partnering with Job Corps is a great move for our business," said Norman Jones, president and CEO of Capitol Energy Group. "As a weatherization company, we're always looking for skilled employees in this field, and now thanks to Job Corps and its new Weatherization Technician program, we'll have access to a pool of graduates already trained and ready to go to work for us."

View more photos [here](#).

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.