



Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

New Century Snapshot

Blackwell JCCC continues a long tradition of molding the lives of young men and women

Dormitory Dedication at Blackwell JCCC well attended

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Laona, Wis. - A brisk September 10 morning greeted over 125 individuals at the dedication of a new women's dormitory at the Blackwell Job Corps Center on the Chequamegon-Nicolet NF near Laona, Wisconsin. Several dignitaries were also on hand to participate in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the dormitory. This is yet another milestone in the long history of the Blackwell Center.

The Center is located on the original grounds of a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp established in 1938. The CCC program was created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 to provide financial relief to families impacted by the Great Depression. This 200-men camp was home to thousands of young men until the CCC program was shut down in 1942.

The Blackwell Camp sat dormant until the 1960's when a new workforce program, Job Corps, was initiated. The new Job Corps CCC opened on November 30, 1965 with 24 students enrolled. Now, Blackwell JCCC has the capacity for 205 male and female students participating in 8 areas of vocational training and education. Since 1965, over



Participating in the ribbon cutting (l-r) were John Sikes, Blackwell Student Government President; Jason Maloney, Center Director, Congressman Kagen's representative Elisa Farmilant; Community Council member Tom Thielke; Sharon DeHart, Deputy Director from the Forest Service national Job Corps Office; Senator Feingold's representative Karen Graff; and Tom Younger from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

15,000 students have enrolled in this program, which according to Blackwell's Student Government President and welding student John Sikes, "gives young adults a second chance to invest in their futures, learn self respect, and respect for others."

Many well-respected individuals in federal, state and local governments value the educational contributions of Blackwell to Wisconsin. During the dedication, Center Director Jason Maloney read from a Certificate of Commendation from Governor Jim Doyle officially recognizing the Blackwell JCCC as an "essential and valued educational institute in the state." Statements of support for the program were presented by representatives from Senator Russ Feingold and Congressman Steve Kagen. Support statements were also read from Senator Herb Kohl and Congressman Dave Obey. Tom Younger from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development remarked on Blackwell's ability to provide growth to the workforce in Wisconsin. Maloney also shared a recently signed resolution from the Forest County Board of Supervisors declaring Blackwell JCCC a valued educational institute in the County and State because of the success and training which helps the local area. Blackwell Community Council President Tom Thielke reiterated the strong support the community shares for the Center and the program.

Going strong for 42 years, the Blackwell JCCC continues its valuable tradition of providing opportunities to men and women through its scholarship program. To fill out a free application for a Blackwell scholarship, please call Julie Eder at 715-359-7040.

More information on the Center can be found on its web site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cmf/blackwell/index.html>