



October 2007

USDA Forest Service—Chequamegon-Nicolet NF



The Blackwell Connection

Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center

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A Note from the Center Director

Welcome to the first issue of the *Blackwell Connection*. In it you will find a great deal of information about Blackwell JCCC's programs and how they contribute to the successful futures of many young men and women who have called Blackwell home for the past year.

In addition, the training students received has given them the opportunity to participate in a variety of projects in local communities and on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Our highly motivated students have and continue to receive

training that gives them the potential to be productive employees and respected members of society. Many of our students consider their experience at Blackwell a "second chance" to learn a vocation and receive high-quality education. In the near future, students will also have the opportunity to pursue careers in the USDA Forest Service under special hiring authorities in the agency. Currently, some students have been trained and engaged in wildland fire suppression and other national incidents all over the United States. Many students have already put

their talents to work on several construction projects in the Forest, and more projects are planned for the future.

I welcome you to read the highlights of community, Forest, and Center projects and events over the past year. If you're ever in northern Wisconsin, please make sure to stop and visit. Our students are very proud of the Center and love to show off our campus here in the heart of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest!

Jason Maloney

Center Director

Facts and figures

- *The first 24 students arrived at Blackwell on November 30, 1965*
- *Blackwell became a co-educational center in 1988*
- *Since 1965, over 15,000 students have enrolled in the educational and vocational training programs at the Center*

Wisconsin's Governor Recognizes Blackwell JCCCC

At a September 2007 dedication of a new women's dormitory on the Blackwell campus, Center Director Maloney unveiled a Certificate of Commendation from the Office of the Governor.

The Certificate, signed by Governor Jim Doyle, recognized Blackwell's contributions towards education and training

young men and women and the Center's continuing role in conservation education on the Chequamegon-Nicolet for the past 42 years. As a result of these and other community-driven projects, Governor Doyle declared Blackwell JCCC "to be an essential and valued educational institute in the State."



Center Director Maloney shares the plaque from the Office of the Governor

Back to our Roots

Tree Planting Honors the CCC

Forest Leadership Team (FLT) member Jason Maloney hosted the May 2007 FLT meeting at Blackwell, which included a tree planting event where FLT members, students, and staff planted over 200 trees to commemorate the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program. The Blackwell campus was the original site of a CCC camp for young men from 1938 to 1943. The CCC program,

established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933, brought together two underutilized resources—young workers and the land—in an effort to save both.

The students were applauded for making a difference by planting the trees and “renewing your roots with the CCC”, according to Maloney.

Forest Supervisor, Jeanne Higgins, who participated in the tree planting, also commended the students

and them “You are leaving a legacy today for future generations.”

Roosevelt’s CCC planted more than 3 billion trees and enriched lives in the process. The Blackwell students are doing their part by creating a better life through education and training and planting a few trees along the way.



A student gingerly plants a white pine seedling

“The Forest Service motto is ‘Caring For the Land and Serving People’. At Blackwell we are serving people by helping them learn to care for the land. By developing a connection to our forest and nature, our students develop a moral center that helps them attain success.”
Jason Maloney,
Center Director

Conservation Education

Training to fight wildland fires

Twenty Blackwell students received training to become wildland firefighters during Spring 2007. In the past, Blackwell sent fire crews out to assist with wildfires, hurricanes, and the recovery of space shuttle Columbia that disintegrated in 2003. The twenty new fire fighters received classroom training

and participated in field exercises to hone their craft. The Blackwell crews and students were dispatched to 5 incidents in 2007 and worked side by side with fire fighters from all over the country.

Blackwell students doing their part for wildlife

In early spring 2007, a group of students constructed

and installed wood duck and bat houses at wildlife impoundments on the Chequamegon-Nicolet. This is one of many projects Blackwell students participate in that benefit the quality of life for everyone, including Northern Wisconsin’s wildlife.

Valuing Diversity

Burying the “N” Word

At a Center-wide event in August 2007, students and staff gathered at the Blackwell campus to participate in a ceremony to bury the “N” word and other words that reinforce hatred and denigration of others.

At the ceremony, students

were invited to write the hate related words of their choice on a card and place them in a casket where it was carried to the center of the campus and buried.

Partnering with local artists to create a “Unity Mural”

In June 2007, students teamed up with local

Wabeno artists to develop a mural to promote unity among the diverse ethnic and cultural groups at Blackwell.

By working together designing and creating the mural, the students learned to internalize the skills they need to get along with other people in society.



Blackwell staff Aaron Hadley at the “Bury the ‘N’ word gravesite.

Community and Forest Projects

Community Projects

Rhineland—Roofing and interior painting at Koinonia Tri-County Human Service Center	Forest County—Constructed sign for Forest County Highway Department
Wabeno—Built security bars for windows for Wabeno Water District	Crandon—Roof renovation and painting at Senior Snoop Shop
Three Lakes—Painted museum	Wabeno—Painted American Legion Hall
Eagle River—Expansion of Vilas Food Pantry	Rhineland—Signage and constructed storage building for Rhineland School District
Newald—Construction of 40x96 pavilion	Florence County—Wall construction and painting at Florence County Ski Lodge
Rhineland—Built gates and signage at Camp Birch Rock	Wabeno—Brushing, landscaping, grading and trail building at Veteran’s Park
Town of Freedom—Painting at the Town Hall	Crandon—Insulated Fire Department Building
Forest County—Painted Forest County Animal Shelter	Rhineland—Built concrete stairs and iron hand railing at the Rhineland Community Golf Course

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1970s and 1980s, three Ranger Stations on the Forest—Lakewood, Laona, and Eagle River— were built by the students at Blackwell.

Chequamegon-Nicolet NF Projects

Painting facilities at Ada Lake, Boulder Lake, Bear Lake, and Richardson Lake campgrounds	Carpentry, roofing, and cabinet making at Lakewood Ranger Station
Stained the exterior of the Florence Wild Rivers Natural Resource Center	Renovation work at Hayward Ranger Station
Carpentry at the Green Lake Shelter (Lakewood-Laona Ranger District)	Carpentry and tiling at Eagle River Ranger Station

Giving Back

Students at Blackwell are always eager to become involved in and host local community events. Earlier this year, students visited the NuRoc Community Healthcare Center where students donated their time to make Valentine door hangings for the residents.

During 2007, Blackwell has sponsored 3 American Red

Cross Blood Drives, held at the Center. Students, staff, community members, and employees from the nearby Laona Ranger District participated in the blood drives.

Blackwell students welcomed kindergarten students to the Center during the holidays, where they decorated cookies, sang

Christmas carols, and had a chance to meet Santa Claus.

Each year, Blackwell students participate in a myriad of service learning events. During one of the events, “Make a Difference Day”, students do everything from rake leaves for elderly neighbors to collecting canned goods for local food pantries.



Smiling faces of kindergartners as they decorate (and sample!) holiday cookies

Center Life

Leadership Program

Blackwell's Leadership Program teaches basic leadership skills such as goal setting, self-awareness, coping, listening, speaking and reality awareness.

In April 2007, students participated in Leadership training at Northland College through their Outdoor Education Program. While there, they had the opportunity to camp under the stars, test their mettle on a climbing wall, and hone their interpersonal skills through organized interactive activities.

A second Leadership training opportunity in the form of a retreat, found the students at the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in Ontonagon, Michigan. While there, the students completed a wilderness backpacking hike. This is another example of the experiential nature-based education that is the hallmark of Blackwell.

Blackwell Scholarships are the only federal scholarships of their kind available to young adults under 25. Young people who qualify are able to spend up to two years acquiring vocational skills that will yield a life-long career. They acquire the academic training needed to earn a high school diploma or HSED. They learn the social skills that make them employable and productive citizens. As with any scholarship, students must remain in good academic, vocational, and social standing to retain their scholarship. All Blackwell young adults earn their way to success.



Blackwell's Mission Statement

"To create a safe, secure, supportive and clean environment for our students that is conducive to their accomplishing the maximum academic, vocational, social, and employability skills. This will enable them to obtain the tools necessary to be employable and earn living wages now and into the future; and to become productive responsible members of society."

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

About Blackwell Job Corps CCC

Education and Training

- High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED)
- Work-based Learning opportunities
- Personalized career development plan
- Hands-on training in a chosen occupational area

Careers

- Bricklaying and Tile Setting
- Business Technologies
- Carpentry
- Construction Crafts Laborer
- Electrician
- Health Occupations
- Painting
- Welding

Dorm Life

- About 205 students
- Four dorms on campus
- Men and women live in separate dorms
- Students have 3 to 4 roommates
- TV rooms and telephones in each dorm

Fun Things To Do

At the Center:

- Art Classes
- Billiards
- Dances

Around Town:

- Movies
- Restaurants
- Shopping
- Fishing, camping, hiking, bird watching

Be A Leader

- Community services projects
- Student Government Association
- Wildland Firefighting

For More Information:

Contact Penny McLaughlin (715-674-7654) to arrange a tour or find out more about the program.

To fill out a free application for a Blackwell scholarship, contact Julie Eder (715-359-7040)

Blackwell JCCCC

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