



JOB CORPS'

R&R Field Report

Aiding in America's Recovery and Reinvesting In Our Future



ARRA E-Newsletter Volume 22

From the National Office of Job Corps

Dear Job Corps Staff,

We enter 2011 with the opportunity to expand upon last year's achievements, making an even greater impact on our students and in our communities as we see many of the ARRA-funded projects through to completion. This February will mark the second anniversary of the passing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and its positive effects on Job Corps are evident in the outstanding work of our centers. In the last edition of the R&R Field Report, we recapped the accomplishments Job Corps' ARRA funds have enabled us to make in many aspects of the program. In this edition, I want us to look forward to the future of the program. The next 12 months are just as important, and we must stay focused on our commitment to improving the program for our students.

In this issue, we highlight new advanced career training programs, such as Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Thermal System Installer, Smart Meter Technician, and Weatherization Technician. The new programs showcase how Job Corps continues to adapt to changing technologies and industry trends, in order to provide more career opportunities for students.

Many of these new green training programs are already in operation on certain centers across the country, including Gary, Oneonta, Potomac, and Pittsburgh. Studies show a demand for these skill sets, and our students are taking full advantage of the opportunities the programs offer.

This edition also spotlights the Turner Job Corps Center, which applied ARRA funds to the remodel of an abandoned building on campus. The restored facility will serve as a gathering place for students and the community. Treasure Island Job Corps Center is also recognized in this edition for its award-winning urban farm.

In order to better document all of the progress we have made, we're asking that each center submit success stories of Job Corps students who have been hired from one of the green training programs, or from their work with an ARRA project contractor. **If you have a hiring story to share, please submit it to oic.arra@dol.gov as soon as possible.** Thanks for your continued efforts, and keep up the great work.

Sincerely,

Edna Primrose
National Director



New Training Programs Offer Job Corps Students a Bright Future

In 2010, Job Corps added new advanced training programs to take advantage of growing green technology industries. Four of these programs, Solar

Turner Job Corps Center Renovates A Former Chapel



The newly renovated Turner facility will total 4,000 square feet and will be used for multiple activities on center.

A newly renovated 4,000-square-foot former chapel on the Turner Job Corps Center campus will serve as a gathering place on center and allow the center to host community events.

ARRA funds enabled a complete renovation of a nearly abandoned structure that had not been usable for students. The center, which was formerly an Army and Air Force base, has many outdated buildings, including the former chapel.

Staff and students at the Turner Center are proud to see significant improvements happening on campus due to ARRA funding.

Fifteen workers from an Atlanta-based contractor replaced the interior and exterior framing and sheathing and redid the woodwork on all sides of the facility. The roof was replaced, as well as the stained glass window that encompasses the majority of one side of the building. Finally, a new coat of paint completed the renovation.

Turner Job Corps Center Maintenance Manager Michael Waters said the center is very excited about being able to use the beautiful building again, and looks forward to using it for a host of activities.

Photovoltaic (PV) and Thermal System Installer, Smart Meter Technician, Overhead Line Construction, and Underground Residential Distribution, began enrolling students late last year, and the first graduates should complete their training later this year.



Overhead Line Construction students from the Oneonta Job Corps Center practice their skills at a special training facility near campus.

Research into growing industries and future employment opportunities shows that these new programs will make Job Corps graduates even more attractive to employers in the coming years.

Areas of growth include the electrical and solar industries with smart grid technology and solar energy. According to an article from "The Americans for Energy Leadership," a national smart grid could add \$15 billion to \$20 billion per year to the U.S. economy by 2020. Additionally, a \$100 billion investment could create nearly 2 million jobs during tough economic times.

According to CleanEnergyAuthority.com, the solar industry celebrated huge growth in 2010, particularly solar photovoltaic (PV) energy production, and the future looks even brighter. "With industry growth has come job growth. We had the first-ever solar jobs census this year, and there are more than 93,000 workers in the solar industry. In fact, so many new green jobs are being created that there is some concern there won't be enough skilled people to fill them," reads the article.

The article also states that the United States has a lot of work to do to train the workforce for these new green collar jobs. Job Corps has created the four new training programs (Solar PV and Thermal Installer, Overhead Line Construction, Underground Residential Distribution, Smart Meter Technician) to fit emerging needs by providing technology-savvy workers in the electrical and solar industries.



Students at the Gary Job Corps Center learn the importance of safety training and hands-on experience in their Overhead Line Construction classes.

Hear what Waters has to say in this [video](#).

[See more photos](#) of the project.

Treasure Island Urban Farm Wins Local Award



Treasure Island students proudly display the award the center's urban farm received from the local Mayor's Office.

Treasure Island's 1-acre urban farm project won the 2010 Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN) Award for *Best Green Community Project*, an award given by the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

Sponsored by the San Francisco General Services Agency and the Department of Emergency Management, NEN is a collaboration of community organizations, city agencies, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions whose goal is to empower neighborhoods to take leadership roles in transforming their community into cleaner, greener, healthier, and more inclusive places to live and work.

Job Corps San Francisco Regional Director Brian Daher, City Slicker Farms founder Willow Rosenthal, Treasure Island Job Corps Center urban farm coordinator Corey Block, Treasure Island Carpentry instructors Jack Reisner and Carlos White, and three carpentry students accepted the award from Mayor Gavin Newsom, multiple city supervisors, and several other dignitaries at a special awards ceremony.

This spring will be the start of the center's first production season, with fava beans, garlic, shallots, and sweet peas already in the ground. The center planted 10 citrus trees, and is preparing to plant another 50 stone fruit trees, 15 apple and pear trees, as well as blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, asparagus, and artichoke plants.

The advanced training Job Corps students are receiving in these fields will equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to enter the workforce with a competitive advantage. These new programs are just getting off the ground at the Gary, Oneonta, Treasure Island, and Gainesville Job Corps Centers.

Job Corps has also added Weatherization Technician and Electronic Health Record Specialist training programs to its list of career areas in order to provide a variety of green training opportunities to students.



Students from the Shreveport Job Corps Center pose proudly next to the solar panels they helped install on the roof of a campus building.

Job Corps students will earn Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) credentials, and all necessary tools of the new trade. The new training programs were made possible by ARRA funds.

View more photos [here](#).



Landscaping students help plow and prepare the land for the center's urban farm.

The urban farm at the Treasure Island Job Corps Center promotes healthy lifestyles and educates students about ecology, gardening, composting, and sustainable principles. When first conceptualized, the farm was expected to produce between 7,000 and 11,000 pounds of vegetables, 6,000 pounds of fruit and nuts, and more than 1,000 eggs annually for the center cafeteria and student-run restaurant. With so many seeds already in the ground for its first production season, the center is well on its way to reaching its goal.

To see more photos of the urban farm, click [here](#).

To see more photos of the NEN Awards, click [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.