

Two **Finch-Henry Job Corps Center** Student Government Association (SGA) officers were selected to attend a recent community luncheon honoring renowned attorney Marian Wright Edelman, founder and President of Children’s Defense Fund based in Washington, DC. Edelman toured several counties in the state (Mississippi) to view and discuss progress since the late U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy toured in 1967, at her request to see the poverty that exists. A very diverse group of individuals, local and state officials, service organizations, and institutions shared information about current issues affecting the success of many individuals and families in the state. Dr. Robert Smith, Vice-Chairman of the MINACT Inc. Board of Directors, gave remarks, and Finch-Henry Center Director Cordella Smith thanked Edelman for her lifelong work supporting services for families, including Job Corps. Several individuals, including Edelman, spoke of the health, education and training services and opportunities available as a result of the extensive work of Dr. Aaron E. Henry.



Finch-Henry students and staff were recognized during the luncheon and given the opportunity to introduce themselves. Local officials reported ongoing economic development projects and anticipated employment opportunities for the area. Finch-Henry graduates from the area are expected to benefit from these employment opportunities. Pictured with Edelman are (L-R) students Alondra Cook and Kendra Lee; Group photo (L-R) are Dr. Smith, State Senator David Jordan, Finch-Henry Counselor Felecia Curtis, Lee and Cook, and Center Director Cordella Smith.



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Milwaukee Job Corps Center students were invited to participate in the Milwaukee Common Council’s *Promise Zone Ride*. The ride was a family friendly event suitable for anyone who could ride a bike. The purpose of the bike ride was connecting communities to improve access to resources. The 5-mile route included visiting important community sites in the 1st and 7th Aldermanic Districts. Bike marshals guided the members through historic neighborhoods and along natural environment amenities including local parks and trails. Bikes for the ride were furnished by Bublr, Milwaukee’s bike share program which provides the opportunity to take a bike from one bike station, enjoy a quick ride, and return the bike to any nearby Bublr station. It is Milwaukee’s first and only bike share program accessible to all city residents.

Pictured (L-R): Milwaukee Job Corp Security Sgt. Christopher Bittner with students Stella Hill, Anastasia Alvarez, Jkeyah Swopes, Jaiveiona Cooke, Parise Maxey, Deavon Harroway, Zendora Stokes, Dominique Duncan, and Rayshaun House Jr.

Nine **Denison Job Corps Center** students helped the Siouxland Food Bank by unloading the truck filled with meats, fruits, vegetables, pasta, breads, and cereals for distribution to Crawford County families. The second Tuesday of each month is a very important day when the Siouxland Food Bank distributes food items to the less fortunate or needy of the area. Many recipients are elderly, disabled, or challenged to manage pick-up of these goods; so when distribution begins, Denison Job Corps students assist community members with carrying heavy loads of groceries to their vehicles. This is a task that would be nearly impossible for many of the recipients alone. Food pantry distributors acknowledge that without the assistance of Job Corps students, most people would be unable to take full advantage of this outreach. Since the program began, over two years ago, Job Corps has been helping each month. Some students report that before Job Corps they depended on food pantries; therefore, they personally recognize the value of this program. Pictured left are: Front - Zac Cook, Shawn Freeman, and Caleb Jackson; middle - Maison King, Dakota Harrell, and Nate Bailey; and rear - Zachary Erickson, Cameron Morelock, and Jason Nolte. Pictured right are: Front - Dakota Harrell, Nate Bailey, and Shawn Freeman; and rear - Maison King, Zachary Erickson, Caleb Jackson, Zac Cook, Cameron Morelock, and Jason Nolte.



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Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center students assist the Area Community Service Employment & Training (ACSET) program with delivery of packages of food that helps ensure low-income seniors over the age of 60 have supplemental food assistance prescribed as nutritionally sufficient according to the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The students work with other volunteers to pack enough boxes to provide monthly supplemental nutrition to 1,436 Kent County seniors. The relationship between Gerald R. Ford Job Corps and ACSET is long-standing and mutually beneficial in that the students help ACSET staff to ensure their mission to assist seniors, and ACSET provides an opportunity for students to perform early Work-Based Learning and a community service. Students have expressed good feelings about assisting the elderly with transporting boxes of food to their vehicles or preparing boxes for transport. John Gray III is shown preparing boxes, and (L-R) Jonathan Guiles, Da'shine Shelton, and Dyshun Phillips are assisting with loading vehicles.



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Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center showcased the talent of the Hooks Choir at *Youth Explosion*. The choir sings at many on-center and local area functions, to include giving a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem to open a Riverkings local semi-professional hockey game next door in Southaven, Mississippi. They have many requests to perform throughout the community. The choir is under the direction of Leadership Coordinator LaTonya Benson



(pictured right), and Phylcia Hollis (pictured left), who volunteer her services. *Youth Explosion* was held in the local community and included an opportunity to pray, sing, read poetry, enjoy praise dances, and an inspirational release. Many youth from around the community also participated in this event which ended with fellowship and a luncheon. The messages carried forward is – stay positive in all that you do. Choir members are pictured wearing Hooks Job Corps shirts.



Gulfport Job Corps Center recently held mid-year elections for the Student Government Association (SGA). The election process was a great learning opportunity for the entire student body. The week consisted of candidate introductions during the Monday Morning Business Meeting, a Candidate Meet & Greet session, and concluded with candidates giving their platform speeches before the entire student body. The week was busy with each candidate making a plea to their peers to elect them through speeches and campaign flyers. Each candidate put their best forward, but only seven could be victorious in their efforts to lead their peers. Chosen students represent each trade area on-center, and are committed to serving their peers and the center overall. The SGA looks forward to being a voice for students and ambassadors for the Gulfport Job Corps Center. Elected leadership is pictured as follows (L-R): Front row – Vice President Alisha Ellis, Center Ambassador Brittany Garth, President Shakeidra Reaux, Alternate Center Ambassador Allison Smith, and Secretary Gabrielle Girmsley; back row – Sergeant-At-Arms Devontay Covington, Committee Chair Brandon Flake, and Treasurer Tre Powell.

Shreveport Job Corps Center is on the verge of becoming a much safer place to live, learn and visit. The center, nestled in the heart of an urban area known as the Queensborough neighborhood, is one of thirteen Job Corps centers selected by the National Office of Job Corps to receive surveillance cameras throughout the campus to enhance safety and security of students, staff, and visitors.



This project includes installation of 64 surveillance cameras located around the campus perimeter and throughout major hallways, classrooms, dormitories, and campus grounds. Additionally, programmable card readers will be installed for access control on selected entrances. The high-tech perimeter cameras are equipped with night vision adjusters. These upgrades and enhancements will ensure that Shreveport Job Corps Center is a safer place to live, learn and visit; project completion is expected by the end of August 2017.



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Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center was the venue for an event dubbed, *Professional Development Day*, hosted by Outreach and Admissions (OA) Counselor Tamara Harrelson. This event is among many strategies developed by the OA team to increase new student arrivals at Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center and the Alternate Training Location in Kansas City, Missouri. Based upon the success of a similar event last fall, this event hosted twenty counselors, advisors and family liaisons from non-profit organizations that work with and for young adults ages 16-24 in Jackson and Clay County, Missouri.



Attendees were treated to presentations by students from each of the eleven career technical training classrooms, an extensive tour of the twenty-six acre campus, and lunch provided by the Excelsior Springs Job Corps Culinary Arts team. Guests visited with students and staff to ask questions in order to obtain a thorough understanding of Job Corps and its offerings. The day was a huge success, and the OA team has received feedback in the form of student referrals. Pictured (L-R) are Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets Kuadam Walton and Courtney Lindeman, and Painting trade students Malik Cervantes and Corbin Parker presenting to attendees.



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