

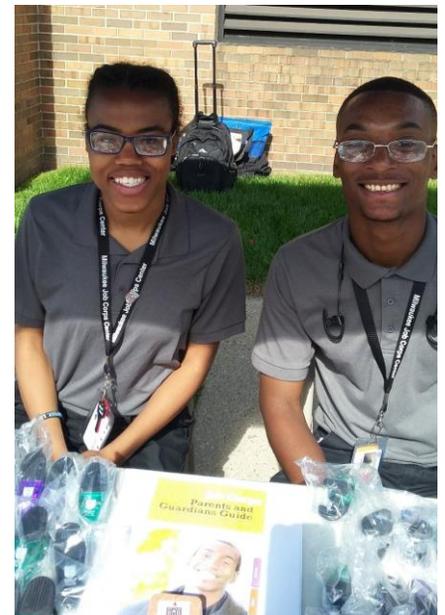
Each year, **Shreveport Job Corps Center** students participate in BizCamp, a youth entrepreneurial training program created by Inner City Entrepreneur Institute in affiliation with local universities, Caddo Parish Schools, and Shreveport Job Corps. The BizCamp mission is to “Create a new crop of entrepreneurs for the 21st Century.” Youth between the ages of 13-23 who are ambitious, creative and have the entrepreneurship spirit usually participate in BizCamp. Six



Shreveport Job Corps Center students enrolled this year along with many students from various Caddo Parish Schools. They attended workshops and classes, used interactive business education software, met with motivational business leaders, and participated in the Market Place where they actually shopped and purchased materials to produce goods to sell to the public. The highlight of the camp is the day when all the listening and learning from classes, workshops and Market Place comes into action, as participants set-up displays to market their goods. The students were excited to sell their goods as they talked with potential buyers about their products and learned to become competitive with efforts to convince shoppers to purchase their goods. The excitement culminated in a lively graduation ceremony where participants were rewarded according to their success.

Shreveport Job Corps student Christopher Archer received first place for his business plan, and received an award of \$100 for being the top Biz Plan competitor. Other Shreveport Job Corps students received certificates of achievement while several of their fellow students and staff attended the graduation to share in the excitement. Archer (center) is pictured with Center Director Curtis Shepard and Lena Leviston, host for the event.

Milwaukee Job Corps Center participated in Milwaukee’s 46th Annual Juneteenth Day celebration. The Business Community Liaison Vera D. Ford, Admissions Counselor Sabrina Lee, Job Developer Yulanda Randolph, and two students Parise Maxey and Lavante Smith (pictured right) manned a Job Corps information table at the event. The day was filled with thousands of residents who gathered for a parade, vendors selling their wares, food, music and fun. It also provided a venue for the community to be made aware of the resources available through local community organizations and Job Corps. Juneteenth Day is recognized as the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery. June 19, 1865 was known as Emancipation or Freedom Day for African Americans. On that day, almost three years after President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, African Americans who were still being held as slaves finally received word that they had been freed. State Senator Lena Taylor co-authored and passed legislation in 2009 making Juneteenth Day a legal, official



holiday in Wisconsin. Pictured left (l-r) are Lee and Randolph with Milwaukee 4th District Police Department Captain Williams.



Finch-Henry Job Corps Center recently held a First Responders Appreciation Luncheon to honor local departments and organizations that provide related services to the center on a regular or as needed basis. Those honored were Batesville Fire Department, Batesville Police Department, Panola County Sheriff Department, Panola County Emergency Management, and Mississippi Department of Corrections. Finch-Henry Student Government Association (SGA) President Daniel Barnes, welcomed guests to the center, and Center Director Cordella Smith along with Manager of Safety Jessie Smith thanked the representatives for their service and support of the center. Panola County Supervisor Vernice Avant, who is a member of the Finch-Henry Community Relations Council, expressed appreciation to the honorees for their service and cooperation with the center. Sheriff Dennis Darby, Community Relations Council Vice President, expressed appreciation to the center staff and students for the good job they do and their cooperation with local law enforcement. A special made distinguished First Responders gift was presented to each official, and a tasty luncheon meal was prepared and served by the Culinary Arts class under the supervision of Instructor Kevin Bobo. First Responder representatives are pictured with Sheriff Darby (far left), Barnes (third from left), SGA Reporter Kendra Lee (center) and Jessie Smith (far right).



Smith thanked the representatives for their service and support of the center. Panola County Supervisor Vernice Avant, who is a member of the Finch-Henry Community Relations Council, expressed appreciation to the honorees for their service and cooperation with the center. Sheriff Dennis Darby, Community Relations Council Vice President, expressed appreciation to the center staff and students for the good job they do and their cooperation with local law enforcement. A special made distinguished First Responders gift was presented to each official, and a tasty luncheon meal was prepared and served by the Culinary Arts class under the supervision of Instructor Kevin Bobo. First Responder representatives are pictured with Sheriff Darby (far left), Barnes (third from left), SGA Reporter Kendra Lee (center) and Jessie Smith (far right).

On Wednesday, June 28, 2017, **Gulfport Job Corps Center** hosted its annual Safety Appreciation Luncheon during the midst of tropical storm Cindy. Minutes before the event was scheduled to start, the Gulfport area received a tornado warning that put the center on lock-down as student and staff safety was demonstrated first-hand. After the Safety Manager gave the all-clear, student and staff returned to their routine areas, thinking that the event should be cancelled because invited guest would not come out in weather that was producing torrential thunderstorms, lightening and water spouts. True to form, Gulfport's finest and several other invited guest weathered the storms and came to show their support for Gulfport Job Corps Center. Delois White, MINACT Vice-President of Operations, commended everyone for going the extra mile and pressing forward to attend the event. Community Relations Council and Center Workforce Council members also came out to show their support. Vernon Dykes, Manager of Safety /Security and Fire Prevention, along with Center Director Alexander Alston, and White presented the honorees with plaques as a token of appreciation for ensuring that safety of Gulfport Job Corps students and staff is a top priority. Dykes recognized Gulfport Police, Gulfport Fire Department and several Work-Based Learning Sites that have demonstrated outstanding safety practices throughout the year. As Alston stated during the luncheon, "Gulfport has the most support from our partners and it was demonstrated today." Gulfport Job Corps takes great pride in relationships established with Gulfport's finest to ensure the safety of students and staff. Dykes is pictured (top) with Safety Appreciation honorees; White is pictured greeting attendees; and Alston is shown presenting awards.



Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center students of the Youth 2 Youth Partners 4 Peace program, in conjunction with the International Club, presented a cultural awareness night entitled *Celebrate Africa*. Presently, Ford Job Corps has 28 students and several staff members from seven countries in Africa. Countries represented at the event were Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ghana, Sudan, Kenya, and the Republic of Congo. Students and staff from these countries shared information about their homelands and their personal journeys to America. The evening included original songs, dances, ethnic attire and costumes from the various countries, and a scrumptious meal that was enjoyed by all in attendance. One of the student organizers of the event, Nyiraburanga Umutoni from



Rwanda, shared her personal story and closed her segment by saying "We, the students from Africa, know so much about you. Maybe now you will know a little more about us and see that we have much in common." Seventy-five students and staff members attended the night of cultural awareness. Many of the American students were amazed by the range of talent and heartfelt stories shared during the evening. At the close of the evening all attendees joined hands as a show of unity that celebrated and embraced their cultural differences. The International Club Members are pictured above, and student in dance performance (left).

Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center recently held another successful Center Workforce Council (CWC) meeting with employer representatives from many trade areas, the Workforce Investment Network, students and staff in attendance. Designated students spoke about their Job Corps training and future goals. Current Labor Market Information was presented along with results of recent trade assessments, and recommendations were sought for equipment upgrades and insight into current market trends and changes in the respective industries. Each entity represented on the CWC has the ability to positively influence outcomes and services for students through relationships that are built with business partners, involvement in community activities, and addition to the Friends of Job Corps roster. It was a productive meeting with relevant and timely discussions. Pictured



above (l-r) CWC President and Black Business Association President Ricky Tucker, and Oscar Young with Tennessee College of Applied Technology; and (left) FedEx Recruiter James Harvey, Shauna Craig with Memphis Bioworks Foundation, and Hooks Job Corps Team Manager Mary Johnson.

