



e-Blast, September 01, 2017



United States Congressman Mike Johnson from Louisiana's 4th Congressional District visited the **Shreveport Job Corps Center**, last week. He was accompanied by his Deputy Chief of Staff Chip Layton, and Legislative Assistant Brad Morris. Congressman Johnson, an avid Job Corps supporter, shared the success story of a relative who completed Job Corps and is now married and doing very well. He was quite impressed as he toured the vocational areas: Welding, Building Construction Technology, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Nurse Assistant, Office Administration, and Painting. He is pictured above with various Shreveport Job Corps key management team members and Student Government Association (SGA) officers Paige Dyess, Preston Locke, and Brianna Jackson,

who were delighted to show and tell the Congressman about the wonderful things happening at the center. Center Director Curtis Shepard shared information about the national office expansion program currently in progress on the center as evidenced by construction crews and activity seen during the tour. After the tour, the Congressman and his staff were escorted to the conference room where they were treated to refreshments prepared by the Culinary Arts class, while additional information about the center was provided. Being chosen for a congressional visit afforded an opportunity to show off many good things happening at the center. Congressman Johnson is shown discussing curriculum with Painting Trade Instructor Scott Drake as SGA representatives (L-R) Preston Locke, Jeremy Noble, and Brandon Lang listen; and in the Home Builders Institute trade with students (L-R) front row – Tilandria Jewett, Derrick Punch, and La'Trevion Simmons, and back row – Wiley Bell, James Black, Ronald Roberson, and Capel Rone.



Denison Job Corps Center Carpentry trade students found themselves asking: How much could you do with a hammer, a stack of oak boards and an empty room? Carpentry Instructor Jeff Shupe had the plan and he posed it to the students. From conception to finish, the students turned those simple boards into beautiful cabinetry as they measured, hammered, sawed and worked for weeks. They removed the existing cupboards in the reception area and installed new upper and lower cabinets, including a corner unit with no space wasted. The students also installed counter tops and Ismael Garcia (pictured right), a very talented Carpentry student, finished this project with very attractive crown molding. The finished results speak to the quality of training that is taking place in the Carpentry trade. When guests sign-in at Denison Job Corps, they will be impressed with the physical presentation and lay-out of the area, and students did it all from start to finish. Hard work and a vision proved to be priceless.



Two **Finch-Henry Job Corps Center** students recently received support scholarships from the 100 Black Men of Grenada, Inc. (100 BMOG). Both Sherese Burnett and Michael Kizer are freshmen at nearby Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, Mississippi. The scholarships were presented by Maurice Stinson, Education Committee Chairperson for the organization, and Charles Latham, Chapter President. In addition to scholarships, the 100 BMOG provides speakers, mentors, clothing, and financial resources to Finch-Henry students who are in need. Stinson and Latham spoke during the Monday Morning Assembly and encouraged students to follow the example of the



scholarship recipients and obtain additional education to prepare for their future. Latham assured Center Director Cordella Smith, that the organization would continue to partner with Finch-Henry Job Corps. Advance Career Training Coordinator, Mary Allen, accepted the scholarship for Kizer. Pictured (L-R) are: Roger Givens, 100 BMOG member and Finch-Henry Business and Community Liaison; Student Government Association President James Henson; scholarship recipient Sherese Burnett; Center Director Smith; Latham and Stinson representing 100 BMOG; and Advance Career Training Coordinator, Mary Allen, who accepted the scholarship for Kizer.

Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center staff and students had the privilege to experience a total eclipse of the sun on August 21, 2017, rather than a *Total Eclipse of the Heart*, as crooned in lyrics of a 1980's song. The community of Excelsior Springs, Missouri was one of a few Missouri communities in the path of totality for the eclipse. The Excelsior Springs Job Corps Sunshine Committee arranged for the student body to receive information about the event, for all staff and students to receive NASA approved eclipse viewing glasses, and special lunch schedules were arranged to accommodate the event. Pouring rain stopped and clouds cleared just in time for everyone to enjoy the total eclipse. Students and staff were in awe and cheered at 1:08 p.m. (CST) as they experienced totality. Lower pictures show the progression of the event. The darkness was eerie and students were amazed; some commented they previously thought it was no big deal to look at an eclipse, but the experience left them appreciative of emphasis the center placed on the moment. Staff stated they felt like parents watching their children open Christmas gifts because of student's reactions and comments. Pictured (L-R): Staff members Theresa Moyer, Yvette Odell, and Kim Audette with student Carlos Peppers looking over their shoulders.



The **Gulfport Job Corps Center** Wellness Department coordinated its Annual American Red Cross Blood Drive last week with a lofty goal to furnish 22 units to the local facility. Forty-four students and staff eagerly rolled up their sleeves to donate the gift of life. Students Quindisha Porter, Alexander Gaught, Brian Hart, Selena Casanova and Travis Taylor assisted the Wellness Department staff during the blood drive. Mary Adore, Gulfport Job Corps LPN presented each of these students with a Walmart gift card during the Monday Morning Student Business Meeting. Student Paige Glenn is pictured (left) preparing to give the first donation; and (right), Director of Career Success NaKisha Williams, and Manager of Student Records Sharron Wells, are waiting to join the cause.





Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center celebrated the success of 114 eligible graduates, 62 of whom attended the 2017 Summer Commencement Ceremony. Friends and family from Flint, Detroit, Muskegon, and surrounding areas filled the auditorium to watch their loved ones proudly walk across the stage. Nursing Assistant student Angelo Evans performed an outstanding rendition of the National Anthem, and student speaker Hydeia Gray-Woods gave a speech honoring staff and students

who encouraged her success. The keynote speaker Judge Christina Elmore, from the 61st District Court, gave an inspirational speech sharing her life story and life lessons she learned along her pathway to success. Having demonstrated mastery of career technical trade skills, these graduates were encouraged to remain focused in order to stay on course for a successful future.

The **Milwaukee Job Corps Center** recently held its summer graduation to celebrate another milestone in the lives of the students who have achieved graduation status. Excitement was in the air and exhibited by both guests and the



graduates, as they marched into the Milwaukee Area Technical College Cooley Auditorium. One hundred and thirty students qualified to participate in the ceremony, representing the largest graduating class since the center opened in 2010. Job Corps Alum and Milwaukee Job Corps Business Community Liaison, Vera D. Ford, delivered the commencement address. Her theme, *Change*, referred to an earlier Job Corps motto – *Job Corps, A Chance for Change*. Student Shavontez Herron, a member of the Milwaukee Job Corps Chorus, sang the *The Star Spangled Banner*; and graduating students J'Keyah Swope and Lavante Smith gave addresses on behalf of the graduating

class. Student Records Specialist Robin Love-Wilson, delivered a soulful rendition of the song *Never Would Have Made It*, by Marvin Sapp; and Student Personnel Officer Latunya Peavy honored those students who reached Platinum Status in the student conduct system. Programs Director Eric Davenport delivered the Challenge to the Graduates and formally announced them 2017 Summer Graduates of the Milwaukee Job Corps Center, which generated a thunderous applause from the audience and graduation caps flying in the air overhead. Pictured (L-R): above – Cariss Young, Anika Galloway, Willie Webb III, and Matthew Washington; below – Kamari Pearson, Gentile Mwamini, and Inocent Nzabanita; Nay Saw and Chu Saw; Dominique Hunter-Shears, Alana Holifield, and Stella Hill.





Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center recently held a Career/College Fair for all Hooks Job Corps students. There were a variety of college, military, and employer representatives on center for this event, and students showcased their employability skills and were professionally dressed with up-to-date resumes. The fair also

provided the platform for employers to partner with Hooks Job Corps as a Work-Based Learning site. Many students completed employment applications and some were interviewed on the spot. With 22 companies and organizations in attendance, students indicated that this was a

great opportunity for them to spend extended one-on-one time with employers to ask questions, participate in mock interviews, and complete employment applications in some instances. Smoothie King provided smoothies for students who visited each vendor and had their vendor card validated by all vendors. Employers were very impressed. Pictured left, Memphis Fire Department representatives pause to pose while talking with student James Moore; and below, Students Rophe Wright and Whitney Andrews are talking with an employer.



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