



e-Blast, September 08, 2017



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pletcher recently visited the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center to present the annual Forrest A. Pletcher Memorial Award to deserving Ford Job Corps students. The Pletcher Memorial Scholarship Fund was created by Charles Pletcher in 1989 as a loving legacy to his father. Each year this fund has traditionally provided three scholarships – one \$1000, and two \$500 awards, to dedicated and talented Ford Job Corps Carpentry students, and in recent years expanded to include three additional scholarships for Culinary students. The Forrest A. Pletcher Memorial Award is a continuing gift of love from the Pletcher family to Ford Job Corps students who exhibit qualities in life similar to Forrest A. Pletcher: integrity, skill and

creativity. Congratulations are extended to the 2017 Pletcher Memorial Award recipients who are pictured to include (L-R): Culinary Arts Instructor Chef Donald Ram; Culinary scholarship recipients Hydeia Gray-Woods, Tyler Kempert, and Jeran Davenport; Carpentry Instructor Will Shanafelt; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pletcher; Carpentry scholarship recipients Juwann Thigpen, Deandre Givhan, and Innocent Hekima.

Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center recently hosted a successful Workforce Council Meeting on the Excelsior Springs, Missouri campus. Lori Sams, Director of Programs, provided information regarding changes and updates on the campus, and council chairperson G.G. Owens with J.E. Dunn Construction provided labor market information for Kansas City, Missouri. Council members were intrigued to hear students talk about their Job Corps training and future goals. The Culinary Arts team prepared and served a delicious lunch for all attendees. Council members in attendance included representatives from construction unions, the office of Kansas City, Missouri Mayor Sly James, LincWorks, Liberty Hospital, Clay County Health Department, Kansas City Housing Authority, and Kansas City Social Innovations Center. Pictured below (L-R): Guest Speaker Demetrius Garcia representing the Glazier’s Union; and Welding students Christopher Lira and Brandon Drummer, and Union Carpentry student Alex Green who spoke to the group about their training and goals for the future.



Denison Job Corps Center has proof that from a group of people, the first to give and receive a smile is probably someone who is less than 3 feet tall. The Solo Parent Dorm at Denison Job Corps provides for mothers to leave their children in a special dormitory environment that is configured to meet their needs. Each month the moms and children from the Solo Parent Dorm visit a local nursing home where the nursing home residents are charmed by the children who give them crafts they have made in day care. Whether it is turkeys made at Thanksgiving, footprints made into butterflies in the spring, or a host of other delightful surprises, the children deliver their crafts to resident rooms and chatter as though they have been friends forever. It's not unusual to spot a tear of happiness from the nursing home residents because of the rays of sunshine these children bring to them, and many of the craft projects are displayed on nursing home doors for weeks to come. Denison Job Corps delivers cheerfulness, and the good feeling goes both ways because the nursing home residents sometimes give the children crafts they have made. The monthly visits are sweet and fun!



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Milwaukee Job Corps Center recently participated in the Annual District #4 Police Department's National Night Out event held at St. Peter – Immanuel Lutheran School. National Night Out is an annual community building campaign that promotes police community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods a safer and a better place to live. The Milwaukee Job Corps Business and Community Liaison manned a resource booth that provided information on the benefits derived from community youth participation in the Job Corps program, while the students volunteered to assist the police department with serving residents free food, and providing fun and games. These National Night Out events bring neighbors together with local law enforcement in a positive environment that builds a true sense of community and the Milwaukee Job Corps students were instrumental in helping to accomplish this mission. The weather was great, the community response was great, and a positive bridge was formed between the residents and the local law enforcement agencies, with assistance from Milwaukee Job Corps Center. Students Pictured: (above) Dantral Wilson manning the table; (below L-R) Xavier Crumpton and Clarissa Morris; Ivan Divila and Dantral Wilson; Tysha Bell, Dominique Hunter'Shears, and Zendora Stokes; and Ivan Davila assisting with games.



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Gulfport Job Corps Center students were recently invited to participate in a week long seminar hosted by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapter of Black Nurses Rock (MGCBNR) with the objective of educating teens on sexual health and wellness. The MGCBNR works in collaboration with Mississippi State Department of Health to accomplish this objective. The BART (Becoming A Responsible Teen) curriculum was used for this particular program, and Instructors Lakeisha Hall, Kristie Gilner and Rick Barber allowed the students to participate in open discussions as well as role playing. Breakfast, lunch and snacks were provided, and upon

completion of training, the MGCBNR awarded each student with a \$20 gift card for their outstanding input and participation. Instructor Barber challenged the students to take one major component they learned from the class as a student, and become the teacher by using it to educate someone else. Free of charge to the community, the MGCBNR organization offers quarterly health and wellness information on various health issues. Students who participated in the BART seminar are shown above. Lower pictures (L-R) show students Alexander Gaughf and Anastasia Curtis participating in role playing; and students engaged in a brainstorming session.



Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps

Center recently collaborated with LeMoyne-Owen College – Equipping & Empowering a Healthy Campus and Community (E2HC2) to host a program called *In the House: Interpersonal Relationships*. This program was funded through Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) and offered life changing information for all students. The facilitator was Dr. Theresa Okwumabua, the Hooks Job Corps Center Mental Health Consultant. The workshop and curriculum offered an opportunity to explore the basis for healthy and unhealthy relationships, to look at desirable qualities in different kinds of relationships, and to consider how personal qualities and characteristics contribute to positive or negative interpersonal relations. The students learned the process involved in good communication, such as tone and ability to listen and give clear messages; and they discussed how to connect with others and maintain healthy lifelong relationships. The six workshop

sessions were: Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships; What is a Friend; Your Bae, My Bae, What is a Bae; Listening; Effective Communication; and Making and Maintaining Relationships. The students were very engaged and involved in focus groups and discussions, and learned many effective skills to maintain a healthy relationship and good communication.

This training was initiated and developed in an effort to help students avoid breaching Job Corps policy due to poor communication and impulsive response management, and to enhance their abilities to think logically, make rational decisions and realize the significance of a healthy relationship. Pictured: Dr. Okwumabua (above) leading a discussion, and two LeMoyne-Owen Student Instructors presenting.

