



e-Blast, November 17, 2017

Gulfport Job Corps Center recently hosted its semi-annual Business Partner Appreciation Luncheon to recognize employers, Work-Based Learning (WLB) sites, and other organizations that partner to assist with maximizing student training, promoting community support for the center, and employing Job Corps graduates.



The luncheon was held in conjunction with the Records Department's Semi-Annual Outreach and Admissions (OA) Summit. The OA Summit hosts Admission Counselors and Career Transition Specialists who assist with recruitment and placing program graduates. Both groups, along with Community Relations Council and Center Workforce Council members, attended the event to show support for the center and its business partners. Jenna Duncan (pictured above left), a recent



Gulfport Job Corps graduate who completed the Nursing Assistant program and received certification, gave a touching student testimony about how Gulfport Job Corps staff helped her turn her life around. Honorees received plaques for being Outstanding Employer Partners, Outstanding Work-Based Learning Sites, and Outstanding Community Partners. Mary Buffington, Executive Director of Bethesda Free Clinic, a long time Work-Based Learning site, received the Outstanding Work-Based Learning Partner Award for always allowing Gulfport Job Corps students to train with her company. Buffington also gave the employer testimony. The City of Gulfport Building Inspector Jason Pryor (pictured above right) received a Community Partner award for donating equipment for the Electrical class to use in training. Gulfport Job Corps also recognized volunteer tutors Bruce Campbell and his wife Ann for volunteering their time to tutor Gulfport Job Corps students in the areas of reading and math, once a week for the last five years. Special awards were presented to Harrison County Supervisor and Board President Kent Jones as Outstanding Community Partner, and Glenda Collins for supporting the center overall. Shown below are OA partners with Sharron Wells, Gulfport Job Corps Manager of Records in the background; Student Government Association members Wyatt Blair and Kedora Lacey with award recipients; and Director Alexander P. Alston with Supervisor Kent Jones.



Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center saluted veterans at the monthly student awards program. Along with the one student who is in the Reserve, center students and staff also paid tribute to the men and women on Hooks Job Corps Center staff who have sacrificed for liberty and freedom by serving in the military. Eric Pollard, Safety and Security



Manager, read a special poem about what it is to be a soldier. Hooks Job Corps collectively showed thanks for all who serve, and especially those who are still serving while also working at the center. Long after their official military service, these veterans are continuing to lend to others their experience, valuable skills, knowledge and abilities earned while serving this country. The veterans were given tokens of appreciation and a reception after the awards program. Hooks Job Corps Center paused with the deepest respect to say "Thank-You for Your Service" as should be said every day.

Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center students participated in the 2017 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College and Career Fair hosted at Grand Rapids Community College Applied Technology Center. Nearly three dozen Historically Black Colleges and Universities were in attendance recruiting students. The event, which included information on financial aid, scholarships, college essay writing and college compatibility, was co-sponsored by



Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour Experience (HBCUTE) and The Greater Grand Rapids Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Inc. The Jack and Jill chapter embraces the mission to offer students in the Greater Grand Rapids area the widest possible variety of college options as they pursue the education necessary to accomplish their dreams. The purpose of HBCUTE is to provide students with exposure to the quality education provided by historically black colleges and universities through the HBCU Fair, Tour Experience Workshops, Elite Educationalist Award Gala, HBCU History Workshops, and HBCU Tour Experience. Students (L-R) Angel O'Neill and Nashia Hardy are pictured speaking with the Alabama A&M University representative.

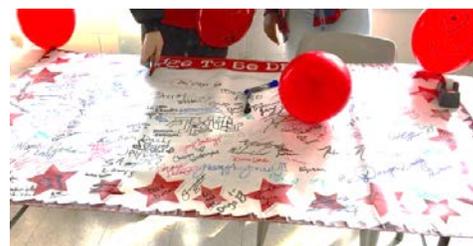


Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center's main campus and Alternate Training Location highlighted **Red Ribbon Week** by emphasizing that the decision to live a drug-free life is the most important one students can make. Students were



provided with water bottles, bookmarks, wristbands, and red ribbons to wear all week along. The week's activities included Monday – 'Red'-y to Live a Drug Free Life (wear red shirt) and also Red Food Day in the cafeteria; Tuesday – Smarties Choose to be Drug Free (Smarties candy provided to students); Wednesday – Wild About Being Drug Free (crazy hair day); Thursday – I'm Too Bright for Drugs (wear bright colors); and Friday – Team Up Against Drugs (wear team jerseys or shirts with jeans). During Red Food day, Trainee

Employee Assistance Program Mentors encouraged students to sign a banner pledging to be drug free. Red Ribbon week activities ended on Friday with trinket tossing and a gift bag drawing during the Good Choices meeting. Pictured are TEAP Mentors (standing L-R) Michael Robinson, Tabitha Rhodes, and Darien Mackins; and (sitting L-R) Denavyon Snoddy-Davis and Corbin Parker.



Shreveport Job Corps Center recently held Awareness Week to bring attention to Breast Cancer Awareness, Domestic Violence Awareness, and Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use Awareness (Red Ribbon Week). Much preventive informative and life-saving facts were shared about how to avoid becoming victims, and how to make smart and informed decisions about life and health. This week of assemblies culminated with an Awareness Cook-Off where the Center Director challenged the Purple and Gold teams to a cook-off, themed with the awareness topics. Everyone became involved because all Shreveport Job Corps students and staff are assigned to either the Purple or the Gold Team. Judges were invited to select the best table set-ups and the tastiest Cajun styled dishes; both teams prepared chili, red beans & rice, and jambalaya. The competition brought fun, laughter and fellowship as each team

displayed their elaborately decorated tables and proudly presented appealing foods in hopes of being the winning team. The judges' decision was the Gold Team. Pictured (L-R): Student Cheyenne Brisk and staff member Stephanie Evans.