

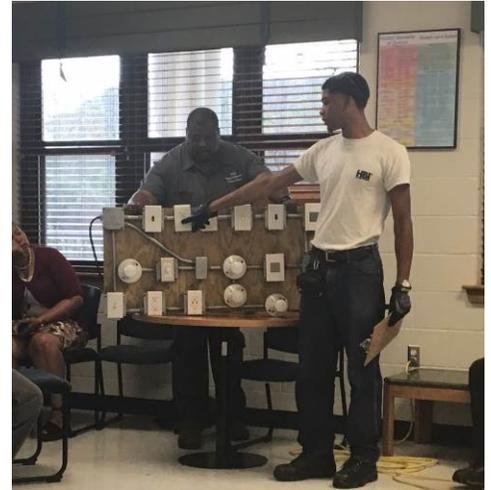


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Former **Gulfport Job Corps Center** Student Government Association President, Devontay Covington, further demonstrated his leadership skills in the Pre-Apprenticeship Electrical trade. Covington came to Job Corps from Meadville, a small town just south of Natchez, Mississippi, with the ultimate goal of enlisting in the United States Army after completing Job Corps. Going above and beyond classroom assignment, as a diligent worker he took on various challenges that his instructor issued. He also became an extension of the Electrical instructor and trained other students on how to complete projects. Prior to completing the Job Corps program, Covington

presented his latest project to the student body during a Monday Morning Meeting. This project included motion censored lights, three-way and four-way switches, electrical outlets, and a doorbell. He explained and demonstrated his project, informed students of the salary range for working in the Electrical field, and answered questions that anyone had about the project. Doyle Rice, his Electrical Instructor, described Covington as his standout student who always went above and beyond the call of duty. Covington recently completed Job Corps with his High School Diploma, and now awaits testing to join the U.S. Army.



Milwaukee Job Corps Center received an unexpected gift from two Center Workforce Council members – Dr. Dorothy Walker, Dean of the Madison Area Technical College of Technology and Applied Sciences; and Michael Mallwitz, Director of Workforce Solutions for Milwaukee Area Technical College at Walker’s Square. The center was provided with booth space at the Wisconsin Manufacturing and Technology Show at no cost. Participation in this event allowed Milwaukee Job Corps to be in the presence of over 200 world-class manufacturing suppliers, service companies, and employers, under one roof. The center featured two of its top manufacturing students, Jessica Smith and Jagger Pelowski, to assist with hosting the booth

and talking with and informing attendees about the benefits they have derived from training in the Job Corps program. Their personal perspectives were the highlight of the booth. The third day of the show was devoted to encouraging youth to view manufacturing as a viable career path. Ashley Dieringer, Manager of Career Development, brought students from the Milwaukee Job Corps Manufacturing trade to participate in the event. These students were exposed to presentations from Alex Lasry, Vice President of the Milwaukee Bucks; Dr. Tim Strait, Internship Coordinator for Wisconsin Fast Forward; and Suzanne Kelley, President/CEO of Waukesha County Business Alliance. A highpoint of the event was Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleeflich presenting scholarship awards to local technical colleges’ Welding students who entered and won the Welding Competition. These presentations provided inspiration for Milwaukee Job Corps Welding trade students who aspire to being ready to participate in the competition at the next manufacturing show. Pictured (L-R): Milwaukee Job Corps Business and Community Liaison Vera D. Ford, student Jessica Smith, and Wisconsin Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleeflich.



Students from the **Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center** Alternate Training Location in Kansas City, Missouri attended the 4th Annual *Sisterhood Success Summit – Women of Color – “I Am”* conference. The day-long conference focused on empowering high school age women by providing them with tools to be successful. The event was held at the Metropolitan Community College – Penn Valley Education Center. The stated purpose was “To provide young ladies and women with a platform to achieve personal success by creating an environment of empowerment, learning and reflection, and to address matters facing women in their communities as well as leadership roles in school.” The agenda included “I Am” Empowerment Sessions to identify: Personal Brand, Effects of

Media, Building Confidence, and Uplifting Each Other. Pictured at the conference (L-R) are: Student Personnel Officer Cynthia Parker-Koudou, students Shamsa Hussein, Hajiya Muya, Kenia Cordero, KeeOctea May, Devonshay Key, Sketna Dorfilus, Patience Bulongo, Riberata Tumusifu, and Ariana Gasca, and Career Transition Specialist Robert Simmons.

A conversation between **Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center** Career Preparation Period (CPP) Instructor Linda McCarthy and student Jameal Breham inspired the idea for McCarthy to accompany three of her students to a Toastmasters Club Meeting. The focus was on developing these students as professionals by increasing their public speaking skills. With a Halloween theme, several speeches were given that night by more and less experienced Toastmasters members and visitors. Each of the three CPP students; Jameal Breham, Mary Marsh, and Yamkela Johnson; took advantage of the opportunity to speak at their table to introduce themselves. Johnson also rose to an invitation to deliver two impromptu speeches called Table Topics. This segment is hard for



even experienced speakers, but Johnson took on the challenge and was engaging and clever in his delivery and content. All three students enjoyed the experience and asked to become regular members. Toastmasters International is a world leader in communication and leadership development, and provides a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth. Pictured (L-R): Students Yamkela Johnson, Mary Marsh, Instructor Linda McCarthy, Toastmasters #404 Immediate Past President Sandy Cares, and student Jameal Breham; and Johnson speaking during the meeting.



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The **Shreveport Job Corps Center** Student Government Association recently sponsored a Fall Festival to the delight of the entire student body. Students on the Purple Team and the Gold Team competed in various activities for a chance to win a pizza party. Games included Root Beer Pong, Apple Bobbing, Face the Cookie, Tug-of-War, Balloon Pop, Movin’ on Up, and more. Students enjoyed snacking on popcorn, corn dogs, pickles, Frito pies, and lemonade. With a cumulative score of 200, the Gold Team was the winning team and will be awarded their pizza party on November 13th.



October was Emergency Responders Recognition Month and **Denison Job Corps Center** Child Development Center children entertained some very important visitors while taking in all the excitement that a firefighter, a fire truck, lights, sirens, and a police officer could bring. Many of the local responders are men and women who volunteer their time for the



betterment of the community. The children were taught that firefighters and police officers are friends and helpers, and they shouldn't be frightened when they see firetrucks, flashing lights, or hear sirens. They were thrilled to climb on the truck that had tires as tall as most of the children, sit in the driver's seat, and watch as the firefighter dressed in gear, including

the mask needed for smoke protection. The police officer showed the little guys both the inside and outside of a police car. The noise was again exciting and the children learned a



very important lesson, that police officers also keep children safe. It was a wonderful introduction of safety personnel to the children. Firefighter Tyler Weller, and Police Officer Jeff Trailer are shown with an audience of enthused youngsters.



Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center recently participated in a month of activities intended to enhance interpersonal relationships and perceptions for a positive work environment. The workshop sessions were facilitated by positive youth development workers from the Memphis/Shelby County community, who are close in age to Job Corps participants. As part of another initiative, several Hooks Job

Corps students had an opportunity to participate in *Playback Memphis*, a local improvisational theater company in which the audience tells stories from their lives and watches them enacted on the spot. There was also a game night where students played board games with staff. The hallmark of efforts to enhance the environment was a week-long *Random Act of Kindness Campaign*. The entire Hooks Job Corps community was encouraged to randomly do something kind for someone. These month-long activities were very uplifting and encouraging overall for Hooks Job Corps students and staff. Pictured are students signing the *Random Act of Kindness* board; Hooks Job Corps Mental Health Consultant Dr. Theresa Okwumabua at game night with student Sebastien Zamor; and students playing games.

