



## Deputy Assistant Secretary Makes Phoenix Her First Job Corps Center Visit

Phoenix Job Corps Center had the distinct honor of hosting Barbara J. DesMarteau, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Employment and Training Administration, for her first visit to a Job Corps center. DesMarteau toured the center while she was in Phoenix, Arizona, in October for a Hispanic Women's Conference.



*Front row, Barbara J. DesMarteau, (third from left) seated next to Brian Daher, San Francisco Regional Program Director of Job Corps, with Phoenix JCC Center staff, and a MINACT Corporate Staff member.*

Brian Daher, San Francisco Regional Program Director of Job Corps, joined DesMarteau for a guided tour of the center, led by Student Ambassadors. They visited every academic classroom and all career technical training areas. The highlight of DesMarteau's visit was her jaunt around the campus in the comfort of one of the center's solar powered electric golf carts.

A reception in DesMarteau's honor was attended by the center's Community Industry Council members, staff and students. DesMarteau expressed her appreciation for the warm welcome she received, praised the staff for their dedication to providing support and career training to America's youth, and encouraged students to take full advantage of the opportunities Job Corps provides.

## Excelsior Springs Navy JROTC Inspires Crowd at NFL Game

Before the Kansas City Chiefs and Denver Broncos kicked-off on December 5th, the Excelsior Springs Navy JROTC presented the Nation's Colors to a crowd of over 67,000 people. The center's Navy Color Guard performed admirably with distinction, precision and reverence as they carried the American flag as well as the Navy and Job Corps flags into Arrowhead Stadium preceding the National Anthem.

Excelsior's JROTC is disciplined and well-trained by its Naval Science Instructor, LCDR William R. Allen, a retired naval officer. LCDR Allen's compelling application to the Chiefs' organization earned the coveted opportunity for his students, whose performance also brought prestige and recognition to the center. The privilege of presenting the colors is an honor reserved for the best of the best, and the JROTC of Excelsior Springs JCC can add its name to that list.



*Excelsior Springs Navy JROTC in formation presenting the colors at Arrowhead Stadium.*



## From the President/CEO

As we settle into the New Year, MINACT remains steadfast in providing quality service to our customers. Our customers are broadly defined to include the government, students and their families, staff, partners, vendors, communities, neighbors, and the list goes on. Throughout 2010 we used Quality as our company theme. Quality is one of MINACT's core values because it reflects our company-wide commitment to excellence. It is such an integral component of a successful operation, we are calling *2011-The Year of Quality*.



Our pursuit of quality serves as a springboard to action, ensuring systems are in place at every level of the Job Corps experience to fulfill the needs of our students and enable them to find success, and growth as they pursue their career goals. We actively work with our customers to maintain quality results. Our goal is to ensure that every student becomes proficient in exhibiting Job Corps' Career Success Standards, completes his or her career technical training program, graduates and obtains a job with a promising future.

We are also diligently seeking new methods to achieve and sustain highly effective systems that are self-perpetuating, so that quality training consistently permeates every career pathway. These are goals we enthusiastically undertake, and we look expectantly to 2011 as a banner year for our customers. As a premier operator of Job Corps centers, we will accept nothing less.

*B. J.*

Booker T. Jones

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## Promoting Safety Awareness Never Stops

Helping Job Corps students make good choices is always a top priority at Phoenix Job Corps Center. Staff members drive the point home by getting students involved in youth conferences and events to reinforce the messages they receive on center about good safety habits. For example, students attended the Arizona Distracted Driving Youth Summit, sponsored by Taser International, where they heard from NASCAR driver Michael McDowell, and various experts about social norms and distractions associated with texting while driving. The students also attended a conference sponsored by SADD (Students against Destructive Decisions, formerly known as Students Against Drunk Driving), where they were encouraged to explore issues

Under the tutelage of Phoenix staff, students are constantly gaining insight into the importance of exercising caution and making wise decisions.



*Left to right: Phoenix Job Corps Center Carpentry Students, Martin Luna Lopez, and Matthew Meza dressed as Crash Dummies. Charles Sobczak (rear), Red Means Stop Coalition and Lela Decker, Phoenix JC Center Driver Education Instructor.*



*Phoenix Job Corps Center students at the Arizona Distracted Driving Youth Summit with Rick Smith, Taser International CEO, (back row, third from left) and Dr. Parry Aftab, Conference Moderator and Executive Director of Wired Safety (back row, far right)*

such as underage drinking, understanding addiction, and building self-esteem, in workshops led by professionals.

In addition, Phoenix JCC students help promote safety awareness by volunteering at events such as Operation Lifesaver, which was held during Governor Jan Brewer's annual Public Safety Days event at the state fairgrounds. Operation Lifesaver educates residents on how to avoid dangers associated with railroad crossings.

## Phoenix Student Semi-Finalist in NJCA Oratory Competition

Job Corps is a beacon of hope for young adults seeking a brighter future. Vernon McCray will attest to that. The Pennsylvania native believes the Phoenix Job Corps Center provided the foundation he needed to pursue his goals. His life and Job Corps experience were the topic of a speech he submitted in the 2010 National Job Corps Association Oratory Competition. He was named one of 10 semi-finalists in the contest which included entries from Job Corps students across the country.



McCray is on schedule to complete his Job Corps training during early 2011. He plans to begin classes at Gateway Community College in Phoenix in September, where he intends to study Business Management and Hospitality. His long-term goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in Global Business Management and work in hotel management.

*Vernon McCray, Retail Sales Graduate, Phoenix Job Corps Center.*



## Work-Based Learning Yields Job Placements for Students

Exemplary work habits and diligence are traits modeled every day by staff and stressed to students at Phoenix Job Corps Center. Worked-Based Learning partners are so impressed with the work ethic exhibited by students, that when positions are available their names are at the top of the list. For example:

Arizona Call-a-Teen Youth Resources, Inc. hired Miguel Rosas, an Office Administration graduate, for a full-time Office Administration position because of the professionalism and quick aptitude he demonstrated during his WBL assignment. Rosas is also enrolled at Phoenix Community College pursuing an Associate's Degree in Business Management.

After Misael "Misa" Herrera, a Facilities Maintenance graduate completed his WBL assignment at Desert Terrace Long Term Care Facility, he was offered a position as General Maintenance Assistant. Within two months, Herrera was promoted to Supervisor of the Maintenance Department.

Zarina Darby's outstanding performance during her WBL experience with Hilton Hotels in the Accounting, Guest Services and Human Resources Departments led to a full-time job offer. The Retail Sales student is working part-time while completing her Job Corps training.

Phoenix Job Corps Center students are not only meeting, but exceeding the expectations of employers. It affirms the efforts of the center's hardworking staff and their focus on providing quality service throughout every stage of the Job Corps Program.



Miguel Rosas



Misael Herrera



Zarina Darby

## Dependability Leads to Opportunities

When it comes to building structures, the Phoenix Job Corp Center's Carpentry class is where Habitat for Humanity turns to get the job done. Organizers were impressed with the student's workmanship and asked Carpentry Instructor Doug McClafferty and his class to build a 1,400 square foot, single story,

*Phoenix Job Corps Center Carpentry students installing corbels and finish trim on the exterior of the home.*



three bedroom home as a solo project. McClafferty eagerly agreed to the project in October. Since then, students have spent three days a week on site working on the house. They have completed the layout, erected walls, installed trusses, drywall, and roofing, and are



*Students measuring the floor plan of the Habitat Home under construction.*

painting the interior of the house. Once that is done, they will install cabinets, sinks, baseboards, doors and hardware.

Electricians will wire the home for electricity and certified plumbers will install the plumbing system. Construction is on target and scheduled for completion in early Spring 2011. McClafferty said it is an honor to earn the kind of trust and support Habitat for Humanity has placed in his students. It is a testament to his expertise as a carpenter, his skill as an instructor, and the training he is imparting to Carpentry students.



## “Get On the Train” and “Duck!”

Positive student leadership is the energy that drives MINACT operated Job Corps center culture forward to achieve success. When students are engaged, excited and inspired it is infectious and becomes the norm for other students to emulate. To help newly elected Student Government Association Officers meet the challenges of leadership, MINACT’s Vice President of Operations, Lyn Dockter-Pinnick, conducts regular student



*Student Government Association Officers with Lyn Dockter-Pinnick [center]*

training sessions. Among the lessons she shares with students to keep them from the hazards that can derail their goals are:

- Don’t be afraid to be embarrassed. Sometimes you’re the only one doing the right thing and you can’t be afraid of what your peers will say;
- Don’t take it personally. Leaders often find themselves criticized and feeling hurt; expect it; and
- DUCK! Don’t be a part of the negativity when it comes your way.

And lastly, *Get On the Train*. We need every student leader pushing forward to success. All aboard!

## First Phoenix Job Corps Center Ambassadors Installed



*Front row: left to right, Phoenix Job Corps Center Students Alicia Griffis, Painting; Henrietta Nez, Security; Natalie Flores, Security. Second row: left to right, Marguis Porter, Security; Jabir Hinnex, Security; Jonathan Parra, Painting; C.C. Turner, Certified Nursing Assistant; and Alex Romero, Facilities Maintenance.*

There is nothing like a warm welcome to put guests at ease; someone who knows his or her way around and can thoughtfully answer questions. That is the role of eight students who were selected Phoenix Job Corps Center Ambassadors. As representatives of the center, they serve as escorts for guests, provide tours for prospective students and attend a host of events on center and in the community. Ambassadors also work closely with Innovations, the Outreach and Admissions contractor for Phoenix Job Corps Center.

In preparation for their new role, these students received intensive training that included, *Effective Communication in the Work Place, Networking and Presentation, and Handling Questions and Answers*. Serving as a center ambassador is an honor. No doubt, their passion for Job Corps will impress everyone they meet.



# Center Spotlight

## Job Fairs Heighten Visibility and Opportunities

Phoenix Job Corps Center staff is actively helping its students bolster their knowledge of the job market and gain experience interfacing with business, education and military recruiters by hosting job fairs. The events are well-attended and open to the public during specific times. Local media provides coverage, which has increased the center's visibility in the community.



*A Phoenix Job Corps Center student speaking with a U.S. Airways Recruiter*

An Education and Military Fair sponsored by Phoenix JCC featured recruiters from 11 educational institutions and five branches of the military. The event provided



*Military Recruiters answering Phoenix Job Corps Center student's questions.*

attendees with invaluable information to help them make informed decisions about higher learning and career opportunities in the military. Center staff also hosted a Job Fair that drew more than 900 people from throughout the Phoenix-Metropolitan area. Phoenix JCC students and graduates met with employers before the event was opened to the public and several Health Occupation students obtained employment. The fair also led to Boeing Aerospace Company becoming a member of the Center Industry Council.

## Phoenix Establishes Student Hall of Fame

Induction into a Hall of Fame is an honor reserved for the best and the brightest, those who excel to heights

seldom reached among their peers. Ashley Stach earned that distinction and was selected Phoenix Job Corps Center's first Hall of Fame inductee.



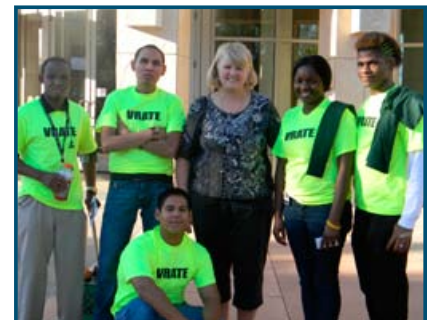
*Ashley Stach, 1st Phoenix Job Corps Center Hall of Fame designee.*

Stach, who graduated from the Medical Assistant and Certified Nursing Assistant programs, exhibited outstanding leadership skills as a Job Corps student through community service projects and as president of her residential floor's dormitory council. Her exemplary character and work ethic made Stach a role model among her classmates. She is now employed at All Valley Home Health of Phoenix, putting her Job Corps skills to work in a career she loves.

## Students Serve as Guides for the Visually Impaired

In the best of circumstances finding one's way around a convention center can be a challenge, couple that with having vision impairment and the task may seem daunting. Phoenix Job Corps Center students, eager to help, stepped-up to volunteer as guides for the blind at the Annual Vision Rehabilitation and Technology Expo at the Glendale Civic Center. Students helped vendors

set-up displays, guided guests, and assisted with answering questions and providing directions. Joan Ellen, Director of Operations for the Glendale Civic Center, praised the Phoenix students for their professionalism and kindness to attendees.



*Left to right: Omer Mohamed, Office Assistant; Lizol Price, Medical Assistant; Joan Ellen, Jamelia Jones and DeShawn Tunley, Retail Sales; and (kneeling) Matthew Meza, Carpentry.*

# Center Highlights



## Chicago Regional Director Tours Milwaukee JCC

Milwaukee Job Corps Center staff was thrilled to welcome Donna Kay, Chicago Regional Director of Job Corps, to the center for a visit last fall. Kay toured the 25-acre campus and was impressed with the new center's green design elements, which include a geothermal heating system that takes heat from the ground to efficiently heat classrooms and specially crafted windows that provide an abundance of natural lighting to save energy.



*Donna Kay, Chicago Regional Director of Job Corps, (second on right) with James Roberts, Milwaukee Job Corps Center Director speaking with center staff.*

Kay spoke to staff about the wonderful academic and career pathway opportunities the Job Corps center offers students and the positive impact the center will have on the community.

\*The Milwaukee Job Corps Center staff and all of MINACT wish Donna Kay all the best in the years to come. Kay retired from Job Corps at the end of 2010.

## Aide to U.S. Congressman John Fleming Visits Shreveport

Mark Malone, Staff Assistant to Congressman John Fleming, visited the Shreveport Job Corps Center to enjoy a day of meeting staff, students, and touring

the facility. Student Government Association Officers graciously served as hosts for Malone's tour of the center, which included the classrooms and career technical training areas. They also treated him to a sneak peek of a house on the center's property under renovation by students, using green design elements. The 'green house' boasts features that include bamboo walls, cedar closets, and double insulated windows. Malone's visit was capped-off with a wonderful meal for him and SGA officers prepared by Shreveport JCC Culinary Arts students.



*Mark Malone, Staff Assistant to U.S. Congressman John Fleming with LaKendra Peyton, Student Government Association President and Office Administration student.*

## Former St. Louis Students Build for the Future

Three graduates of St. Louis JCC's Brick Masonry program came full circle when they returned to campus to help with brickwork on the new dorms under construction at the center. Swanson Masonry, a subcontractor working on the project, hired graduates Richard Wunderlich (2008), Christopher Cain (2007) and Josh Jones (2006).

The former students demonstrated the skills and craftsmanship they learned at the center under Instructors in the Brick Masonry program. The young men's proficiency exemplifies the quality of career preparation and instruction offered, and the foundations laid, at the St. Louis JCC. Years from now the buildings they helped construct will be monuments to the training and guidance they received at the center.



*Left to right, Tom Crane, Brick Masonry Instructor; Richard Wunderlich, Josh Jones, Christopher Cain and John Foley, Swanson Masonry Site Foreman.*



# Center Highlights

*Milwaukee Job Corps Center, Milwaukee, WI*

## Vera Ford: Her Life in Job Corps

When it comes to discussing Job Corps, Milwaukee Job Corps Center's Vera Ford tells naysayers to "step aside." Ford is a loyal proponent of Job Corps, as well as a graduate of the program. The Director of Residential Living says, "It was the one



*Vera Ford*

single thing that grew me into a mature young lady."

At age 17, the Milwaukee, Wisconsin native was sulen and pessimistic about her future. The nation was in the throes of the Civil Rights Movement and she felt the frustrations of inequality voiced by many African Americans. However, Ford grew excited when a recruiter from Women in Community Service told her about Job Corps, an academic and career technical training program, in a college-type setting, where she could further her education. She soon boarded a plane bound for the Los Angeles Job Corps Center.

Ford enrolled in the Licensed Practical Nurse program and immersed herself in center life. "I tried to learn everything they could teach me. I took on leadership roles. I was president of the residential floor I lived on." She even won second place and a \$150 cash prize in a singing contest hosted by Ann B. Davis, a cast member on the hit TV program, *The Bob Cummings Show*.

After completing her training, she returned to Milwaukee to work as an LPN and volunteer as a recruiter for Job Corps with Women in Community Service, the agency that recruited her into the program. In 1985 she became director of the National Job Corps Alumni Association in Washington, D.C. becoming the first Job Corps graduate to serve in that role.

Three years later, Ford became Executive Director of Women in Community Service. She went on to work as Center Director at the Treasure Lake Job Corps Center

in Oklahoma, the New Haven Job Corps Center in Connecticut, and as an administrator at the Westover Job Corps Center in Massachusetts, and Loring Job Corps Center in Maine. When she heard about the Milwaukee Job Corps Center coming on-line, she applied and was recognized as having a wealth of knowledge that would enrich the center. "My goal is to see the students happy and growing, gaining the technical and communications skills to prepare them for gainful employment."

Ford's commitment to the program extends to her family. Her daughter works at the Atterbury Job Corps Center in Indiana.

*Milwaukee Job Corps Center, Milwaukee, WI*

## Milwaukee Open House a Success

Excitement about the new state-of-the-art Milwaukee Job Corps Center generated much interest among prospective students, residents and community leaders; more than 800 guests attended an open house in November. Center Director, James Roberts, and his staff were delighted to



*Left to right, Tom Barrett, Mayor of Milwaukee, at the podium; Tony Perez, Milwaukee Housing Authority; Vera Ford, Milwaukee JCC Director of Residential Living; and James Roberts, Milwaukee JCC Center Director, at Open House program.*

meet visitors and provided tours, which showcased the facility's green design construction elements, career technical training areas, residential, food service and recreational spaces.

Tom Barrett, Mayor of Milwaukee, an enthusiastic supporter and Job Corps advocate, described the center as a great place for young adults to complete their high school education, make life-long friends, and graduate with a good job in hand. Indeed, every staff member at the Milwaukee Job Corps Center is committed to helping students make their career goals a reality.

# Center Highlights



*Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center, Excelsior Springs, MO*

## Students Job Shadow Blood Drive

A blood drive hosted by Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center was a welcome learning experience for Clinical Medical Assistant students. They were able to job shadow phlebotomists with the American Red Cross who worked at the blood drive. Students were placed at every station to view workers as blood donors went through the process of completing forms, answering questions and donating blood. More than 60 staff and students participated in the drive. The event helped support the needs of the community and gave Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center students an opportunity to observe medical professionals at work.

*Front row: William Gruwell, Clinical Medical Assistant Student and Carol Lake, Clerk Typist (seated). Second row, left to right: Jennifer Claiborn, Dental Assistant; Kashie Holland, and Jeffrey Roberts, Clinical Medical Assistant Students.*



*Finch-Henry Job Corps Center, Batesville, MS*

## Readers Make Leaders

Relaxing with a good book is a practice that is generating excitement and lively debate among students and staff at Finch-Henry Job Corps Center. More than 50 students signed-up to participate in the Academic Department's Readers Make Leaders Reading Club. Glenda Smith, a Retail Sales Instructor, came up with the idea for the club, which is designed to increase students' vocabulary, reading fluency, and comprehension. The club meets with Academic Manager, Teresa Walton, on a regular basis to discuss book elements such as the plot, the tone, character development and dialogue.



*Members of the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center Book Club display a book the reading club recently completed by author, Earnest Gaines, entitled: "A Lesson Before Dying."*

*Quentin N. Burdick Job Corps Center, Minot, ND*

## National Association of Home Builders Praises Burdick

Quentin N. Burdick Job Corps Center's Carpentry Shop received high marks and media coverage during a visit to the center by Bob Jones, President of the National Association of Home Builders. It was Jones' first visit to the center. He and NAHB Vice President, Wayne Foster praised the training students receive through Burdick JCC's Home Builders Institute, the workforce development arm of NAHB.

Minot Daily News quoted Jones who stated, "These young people can go out and really earn a wonderful



living with the training they are getting here. To see them in action and how the trainers involve the trainees is very impressive."

*Left to right, Brandon Dubois, Facilities Maintenance student; Bob Jones, President of the NAHB; Mike Frank, HBI Instructor; Matthew Earles, Facilities Maintenance student; Bruce Walker, HBI Board of Trustees; and Wayne Foster HBI Representative, Region 10.*

*Finch-Henry Job Corps Center, Batesville, MS*

## Trailblazers honored on Dr. King Holiday

*Guest Speakers, students and staff at Finch-Henry Job Corps Center following an observance held in honor of Dr. Martin L.*



*King, Jr., and Dr. Aaron Henry. Dr. Henry, a Mississippi native, pharmacist, state legislator, and NAACP leader, worked with Dr. King and forged an alliance with Former Mississippi Governor, Charles Finch, to bring Job Corps to Mississippi. The Batesville Job Corps Center was renamed the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center in 2009.*



# Center Highlights

*Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center, Grand Rapids, MI*

## CNA Graduates Honored

Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center celebrated the graduation of five Certified Nursing Assistant students with a Pinning Ceremony. Tyesha McAdoo-Root, a CNA graduate and Advanced Career Training student, enrolled in the nursing program at Grand Rapids Community College, opened the ceremony with the Nurse's Prayer. Myrna Grandeson, the Health Occupations Instructor, pinned graduates and the Center Director, Jeffrey Jablonski, presented them with new stethoscopes. Several graduates are employed as CNAs at Grand Rapids Veteran's Home and Heartland Healthcare in Detroit, Michigan.



*Left to right, Taqueshia Washington, Shardae Washington, Shanikia Huff, Gina Freeman, and Cody Terpstra, Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center Certified Nursing Assistant Graduates.*

*Gulfport Job Corps Center, Gulfport, MS*

## Gulfport Students Share With Those In Need

The Gulfport Job Corps Center family is proud of five of its students who practiced the true meaning of giving by helping to feed less fortunate families in the Gulfport area. Our 'fantastic five' participated in the 2010 Drive to Feed the Needy. The Gulfport JCC volunteers' cheerful spirit and goal-oriented determination demonstrate the qualities and values taught at all MINACT Job Corps Centers every day.



*Front row, left to right: Laportcia Tucker and Corneika Ambrose, Medical Office Assistant. Back row: Carius Gaston, Certified Medical Assistant; Tommy Foster and Corjontez Spencer, Electrical students.*

*Milwaukee Job Corps Center, Milwaukee, WI*

## Milwaukee Students Settling-In

An enthusiastic staff began welcoming newly enrolled students to the Milwaukee Job Corps Center in January 2011. Students are scheduled to arrive each week until June when the center anticipates reaching its design capacity of 300 students. The thoughtfully designed layout of the center provides an inviting environment for students to enjoy. The career technical training fields offered include Manufacturing Technician, Material Handler, HVAC and Mechanical Systems and a Health Occupations Cluster. An array of orientation sessions and social events are being held to acquaint students with Job Corps, center life and the services offered. It is an exciting time for the community, staff, and students alike who have anticipated the start of the Job Corps program.

*Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center, St. Paul, MN*

## Humphrey Students Leave Lasting Impression at CRC Luncheon

The Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center Culinary Arts Department served the center's Community Relations Council (CRC) an exquisitely prepared luncheon in December. Our students skillfully used the knowledge they've acquired in the classroom and special center events to garner praise from community leaders who attended the event.



Council members were equally impressed by their student dining partners' poise and abilities to

*Left to right: Katie Kapaun, Team Two Manager; Bonnie Watson, Regions Hospital Volunteer Coordinator; Shabraya Davis, Certified Nursing Assistant student; and Bao Moua, Medical Office Support student.*

remember the names of their table mates. These attributes were demonstrated as students stood and formally introduced each council member dining

# Center Highlights



partner to close out the afternoon gathering. Outreach efforts like the CRC luncheon further the mission of Job Corps and promote a positive image of the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center in the community.

*Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center, Memphis, TN*

## Stop, Drop, and Read

Visit Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center any weekday between 10:15 a.m. and 10:40 a.m., and you will find students and staff with a book or magazine in-hand and reading.



*Students at Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center reading during Stop, Drop, and Read.*

The center-wide initiative, called *Stop, Drop, and Read*, is cultivating more interest in reading among the students. All students are required to keep a journal listing the name, author and publisher of their reading selections along with reflections on the content.

Gerar Pope, Academic Instructor, oversees the program, and is finding that students are more engaged in their class assignments and in their approach to taking tests since the inception of this reading initiative.

*St. Louis Job Corps, St. Louis, MO*

## BINGO: A Golden Experience

St. Louis Job Corps Student Government Association members used the annual day of service known as *Making a Difference Day* to meet community members in their 'golden years' at the recently constructed Stratford Manor Senior Community Apartments, adjacent to the Job Corps center. St. Louis students seized the opportunity to open lines of communication with some of the most invaluable resources in the center's commu-

nity—Senior Citizens.

The SGA students now recognize that when they share their vitality and youthful exuberance in a game of BINGO with the Stratford residents, they gain a wealth of knowl-



*St. Louis Job Corps Center students helping residents with a game of bingo.*

edge and wisdom gleaned from years of learning from different life experiences. More opportunities to bond with the Seniors are planned for the near future.

*Shreveport Job Corps Center, Shreveport, LA*

## Shreveport Students Help Preserve History

Painting students at Shreveport Job Corps Center put their skills to use helping to restore vestiges of the Allendale community's past. Students spent a week scraping, priming, and painting the interior and exterior of three shotgun homes, which are being preserved to showcase the community's heritage. They also painted a store that is being transformed into a community grocery and office space.

The project is part of a historic preservation and revitalization initiative sponsored by The Fuller Center for Housing of Northwest, Louisiana, a Shreveport Job Corps Center Work-Based Learning partner.



*Shreveport Job Corps Center Painting students displaying the center's banner at the restoration project site in Shreveport's Allendale community.*



## MINACT Sponsors Freedom Riders Event

Scenes from a new documentary “Freedom Riders,” depicting the tumultuous events surrounding the 1961 Freedom Rides and the courageous men and women who participated in the journey for justice, were viewed at an event sponsored by MINACT. The program called, *Meet the Freedom Riders*, was a precursor to this year’s Mississippi Freedom 50th anniversary celebration of the Freedom Rides, which will be marked by a weeklong series of events (May 22-26, 2011) in Jackson, Mississippi.

Guests filled the Alamo Theatre in the historic Farish Street District, to see excerpts from the film and hear a panel of Freedom Riders discuss their motivation, their experiences, and how their courageous stance exposed segregation in southern bus and train stations. These non-violent direct actions helped to jumpstart the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. The entire documentary is scheduled to air May 16, 2011, on the PBS network.



*Henry “Hank” Thomas, Chair of the National Board of Directors for Mississippi Freedom 50th Foundation, Inc., a non-profit charitable organization, was a panelist at the Meet the Freedom Riders event.*

## Board Member Castilla One of Best Lawyers in Mississippi

Alveno N. Castilla, a MINACT Board member who serves as Board Secretary, added yet another distinction to his stellar list of legal accolades. Castilla was recognized as a ‘Leader in Law’ in the *Mississippi Business Journal’s* annual listing of the best lawyers in Mississippi.

In addition to a law degree, the esteemed partner at Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis, P.A., holds an MBA and is also a licensed CPA. As an expert in tax law,

he is often consulted in matters of federal and state taxation by leaders in business and government as evidenced by Governor Haley Barbour’s appointment of Castilla to his Blue Ribbon Mississippi Tax Study Commission.



*Alveno Castilla*

As a legal visionary, Alveno Castilla’s desire to see those he helps reach their goals is a tremendous asset to MINACT’s dynamic Board of Directors.

## Gulf Coast Culinary Learning Center Enters Third Year

Executive Chef Roberto Hasche’s curriculum at the Culinary Learning Center is producing some of the best cooks on the Gulf Coast. Chef Hasche and Chef Instructors Gerald Quick and Eoin Raymond continue to meticulously develop the talents of their students and encourage them to use their creativity in the kitchen.



*Left to right: Roberto Hasche, Gerald Quick, and Eoin Redmon*

This initiative is in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, and focuses on providing training for in-demand employment. Since the program’s inception in January 2009, 179 students have graduated, and 151 have been placed in positions on the Gulf Coast. The center’s effective placement and post graduation assistance programs are aggressively marketed and executed by a staff of dedicated professionals that include Kathleen Fitzgerald, Project Manager, and Lauren Lewis and Autumn Bernich, Life Skills Coordinators.



*Left to right: Lauren Lewis, Kathleen Fitzgerald, and Autumn Bernich*