



## Centers Rally to Help Earthquake Victims

Having bake sales, sponsoring dances and volunteering at community organizations are some of the ways students and staff at MINACT-operated Job Corps centers are working to support relief efforts in Haiti. January 12th, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti killing thousands of people and leaving massive destruction in its wake. To encourage charitable giving, the corporate office is matching all monies raised by company-operated Job Corps centers. So far, Quentin N. Burdick, Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, Excelsior Springs, Finch-Henry, Gerald R. Ford, Gulfport, St. Louis and the Shreveport Job Corps Centers with corporate matching funds have donated nearly \$18,000 to Haiti relief efforts with more than \$14,000 being donated to

the American Red Cross. In addition, the St. Louis Job Corps Center collected bottled water and donated half of the more than \$4,000 it raised to the Salvation Army.

Other MINACT-operated Job Corps centers donated items and volunteered at local agencies to provide much needed support for Haiti. Students in the Library Club at Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks collected new and gently worn clothing, baby items, medical supplies, and personal care toiletries for the Haiti Medical Mission of Memphis. Hubert H. Humphrey students donated \$1,000 to the organization Feed My Starving Children, in Minnesota. Humphrey students are also volunteering at Feed My Starving Children, where nutritious meals are packaged for distribution to malnour-



Shreveport Office Administration student Shanese Wallace sold Valentine's Day candy and balloons for Hearts for Haiti fundraiser.

ished children in Haiti and worldwide.

The monies donated to charitable organizations will continue to rise as students and staff continue to eagerly donate their money and their time to help Haiti rebound from this terrible tragedy.

## NCCER Core and Green Certification Makes Dollars and Cents

The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) core certification in construction-related career fields can give students a leg-up when it comes to applying for jobs. More and more

contractors are looking for employees who have a working knowledge of core and green construction concepts and can translate them into energy efficient practices. That is why Career Technical Training instructors from

MINACT-operated Job Corps centers spent a week at the company's headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, attending National Center for Construction Education and Research certified *continued on page 9*



Certified craft instructors at MINACT headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi

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## From the President / CEO

The year 2010 is off to a great start for MINACT, as our company continues to build on our successful operation of Job Corps centers nationwide and MINACT Logistical Services (MLS) LLC continues to provide inventory control and material handling through a contract with Nissan North American at its facility in Canton, Mississippi. As we strive to reach higher heights as an operator of Job Corps centers and MLS continues to provide automotive manufacturing support for Nissan, our focus on quality is unwavering. Quality is one of our company's core values, one from which we will not stray. Webster's Dictionary defines quality as: "a degree of excellence, a distinguishing attribute, and superiority." These are the characteristics our employees are committed to fostering and displaying throughout every contract we have . . . large or small. Everything we do — from grounds keeping and transporting students to recreational sites and placing our graduates in jobs — must embody the highest standards of personal integrity and quality.



Our staff works diligently to offer superior career training and job development services to our students coupled with excellent educational and support services. We encourage our employees to continue their education so that we remain attuned to student needs and prepared to share the latest innovations and best practices in education and training. Our unabated commitment to our students has prepared them to face challenges and meet their goals, with the tools to manage personal and professional situations as they arise.

Quality also means working closely with our community partners who unselfishly give of their time and experience to provide critical career development oversight, which optimizes service learning and employment opportunities. Our partners and employers are integral to the success of our students because they prepare them for the "real world" through life experiences beyond the scope of Job Corps center campuses.

Quality is a touchstone that has helped sustain MINACT as a premier business for 32 years. We remain engaged, enthusiastic and vigilant in our number one goal, which is to provide quality services to our customers regardless of the "customer" identification, i.e., a Job Corps student, a Nissan vehicle, or a graduate from our Culinary Learning Center in Biloxi, Mississippi. In short, at MINACT: quality is a guiding principle. It was a guiding foundational principle when we started our business 32 years ago, it is today, and it will be forever!

Booker T. Jones



## Center Highlights

### Groundhog Job Shadow Day: The World of Work Comes to Life

**P**uxatawney Phil saw his shadow February 2, 2010 on Groundhog Day and returned to his warm, cozy, safe home for six more weeks of winter." However, there was no hibernating for Job Corps center students, who used the opportunity for a Groundhog Job Shadow Day. They left the comfort of their centers to shadow employers at work sites throughout their communities. Hundreds of students at MINACT operated Job Corps centers observed professionals in a range of fields, from carpentry and culinary arts to politics and surgery centers.

**Quentin N. Burdick Job Corps Center** students shadowed employees at 83 work sites including welding companies and restaurants for a total of 374 hours! Carpentry students at **Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center** went to the Carpenters' District Council Joint Apprenticeship & Training Center to learn about carpentry

and cement masonry from the pros. **Finch-Henry Job Corps Center** students worked in a high school guidance counseling office and a state employment security office while **Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center** Culinary Arts students shadowed at the Amway Hotel Corporation.

**Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center** students shadowed the mayor's staff and worked at an accounting and computer company.

**Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center** students spent the day at Minnesota Congresswoman Betty McCollum's district office, and the City of St. Paul's finance and street design departments. **St. Louis Job Corps Center** students spent the day with their mentors on the job and the center's Home Building Institute students learned about building maintenance at a real estate management firm.



*Gerald R. Ford JCC students pose in the snow outside the state capitol after a day with elected officials.*



*Finch-Henry student Latandra Watson, Retail Sales, with Carolyn Williams, First Security Bank*



*Finch-Henry JCC welding student Aaron Anderson (seated), shadowed Batesville Junior High Tobacco / Drug Counselor Justin Pope.*



*Quentin N. Burdick JCC Welding student Trevor Gilleshammer, with Justin Severtson, a welder at the City of Minot Maintenance Shop looking on.*



*Shreveport JCC SGA Jaguar President LaDerrick Lewis and SGA VP Shanese Wallace, with Caddo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Gerald Dawkins.*



## Center Highlights *continued*

### QUENTIN N. BURDICK JOB CORPS CENTER / Minot, North Dakota

#### **A BURDICK FIRST: Senators Make Offices a Work-Based Learning Site**



*Left to right: Gail Bergstad, State Representative to Senators Conrad and Dorgan; Veronica Atencio, Office Assistant student; and, Ben Scheeler, state representative to Senators Conrad and Dorgan.*

North Dakota Senators Kent Conrad and Byron Dorgan have opened their state offices to a Quentin N. Burdick Job Corps Center Work-Based Learning II student — a first for the center! Office Assistant student Veronica Atencio is learning how the offices of the elected officials operate. Her duties include monitoring media coverage and reporting the results to the senators' Washington, D.C. offices, answering phones, recording

constituent opinions on legislation, researching constituent requests, using the office database and attending public meetings. She is excited about using the skills that she is learning on center as she works in the Senators' offices through May.

"We have seen firsthand the many benefits Job Corps brings to young people and the community," said Gail Bergstad, State Representative for the senators.

#### **Parents Praise Job Corps, Son for Making Dean's List**

The parents of a Quentin N. Burdick Job Corps Center student cannot stop praising the center for helping their son focus on his academics. They were so thrilled with Cole Gregurek's success that they mailed the staff a letter of thanks. Gregurek says he came to Burdick at the insistence of his parents, but did not have a plan of study in mind. He chose Office Administration as his career field and has not looked back. The 21-year old made the Dean's List at Minot State University in North Dakota, with an overall 3.7 average. The Management Information Systems major also passed the Internet and Computing Core Certification test, and Gregurek is the first Burdick JCC student to test and pass Microsoft Office Specialist certification at the university.



### FINCH-HENRY JOB CORPS CENTER / Batesville, Mississippi

#### **Congressional Staffer Visits Finch-Henry**

Ella Jean Whalen, Field Representative in Congressman Travis Childers' Hernando, Mississippi office, visited with senior staff at the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center. As a returning guest to the center, Whalen complimented the staff for its diligence in working to

maintain the center's high standards of performance and impeccable appearance.

Rep. Childers' staffer reiterated the congressman's willingness to assist the center in any way, and Whalen accepted a plaque of appreciation on Childers' behalf.



*FRONT ROW: (l to r) Cordella Smith, Center Director; Ella Jean Whalen; Brenda Black, Community Relations Council Chairperson; SECOND ROW: Teresa Walton, Academics; Mary Hines, Career Preparation; Donna Smith, Human Resources; THIRD ROW: Roger Givens, Business/Community Liaison; Ina Bibbs, Support Services; Lillian Herring, SGA President; and, Vocational Team Managers Pamela Norwood and Gladys Ellis.*



## Center Spotlight

# St. Louis Job Corps Center

## Healthcare Students Bring Training, Passion to Work

Students at St. Louis area colleges with a passion for healthcare are putting their training to good use at the St. Louis Job Corps Center. The center has developed partnerships with a number of training facilities and colleges whereby students provide medical care to Job Corps students on center. For instance, a registered nurse from Chamberlain College of Nursing handles case management, meets weekly one-on-one with students to monitor their blood

pressures, advises them on maintaining a healthy lifestyle including exercising and eating the right foods. The nurse also conducts presentations on a range of topics including sexually transmitted diseases, family planning and diabetes. Licensed Practical Nurses who attend Applied Technology Community College provide educational training on health-related topics and assist the doctor with immunizations, and also talk to students about prenatal care and

parenting skills. In addition, the LPNs' instructor is on site at all times. Medical Assistants from St. Louis College of Health Careers help the clerks with maintaining medical records and assist the doctor with triage. Dental Assistants are on hand as well to help the dentist with patients.

In return for the services, the center is responsible for providing orientation, monitoring and evaluating the services provided by the interns. The partnership is a win-win for the students and the center.



LPNs from Applied Technology Community College pose for a picture with their instructor, Linda Huffman, RN, BSN (fourth from left, black pants)



Quianna Patton, right, is a registered nursing student working on her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

## Students Take Military ASVAB Test on Center

Students who are serious about joining the military are serious about taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. Now that the St. Louis Job Corps Center can administer the exam, there is a waiting list of students who want to take the multiple-aptitude test. It

is rare for Job Corps centers to serve as testing sites, but St. Louis made the grade along with the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center. In fact, the Army Recruitment Station has presented Finch-Henry JCC two awards for its efforts. At the St. Louis Job Corps Center, the test can be administered once a month to as many as 30 students.

The ASVAB is widely used to measure students' strengths and weaknesses in four critical areas: Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension and Mathematics Knowledge.

Student scores on the ASVAB determine their qualification for certain military occupational specialties and enlistment bonuses.



## Center Spotlight

### Students Aid Haiti Earthquake Victims

St. Louis Job Corps students wasted no time in looking for ways to help the people of Haiti after news of the earthquake was broadcast worldwide. The Student Government Association designed a T-shirt depicting a Haitian child in the rubble of the earthquake's aftermath, and announced they would

sell the shirts to raise money to help the American Red Cross with relief efforts. Then, students began donating cash and agreed to ask for donations of bottled water center-wide. The staff took part by buying T-shirts and making donations to the Salvation Army's relief work. Additionally, proceeds from the center's Winter

Ball went to the fund raising effort. Over the course of two months, the students raised \$4,042 on behalf of the earthquake victims. The center's immediate response to the devastation and desire to help show the kind of compassion and concern for others MINACT Job Corps centers seek to encourage and instill in our students.



St. Louis Job Corps students Breauna Wilson (far left) - Retail Sales; CCP student Chelisa Williams; and, Student Affairs Coordinator Robin Foster (seated).



Carpentry student Donald Anglin (far right) pays for a Haiti T-shirt at center.



St. Louis JCC staff show their support for the cause.

### News Dorms Get Thumbs Up!

Three new dormitories are coming on line soon at St. Louis Job Corps Center, and students are excited about the project. Instead of eight students to a room and a community bathroom, the new dorms will house four students to a room with a bathroom and shower in each unit. The new dormitories will include studio apartments for independent living quarters and will accommodate 136 students. With nearly 450 residential slots, the dorms are a welcome addition on center.

Workers broke ground for the project in October 2009 and it is expected to take 18 months to complete.



*Construction workers tearing down an old building to make room for new dormitories.*



*St. Louis students graduate from the St. Patrick Center "Life Skills" program.*

### Learning to Make Wise Decisions

Making wise decisions does not come naturally. It takes training to learn how to navigate the issues and situations that arise in life.

Thanks to a partnership with the St. Patrick Center in St. Louis, Job Corps

students receive intensive training in making good decisions. They participate in a five-week program, "Life Skills," where they learn about parenting, budgeting, renter's rights and responsibilities, and goal setting. The classes help prepare students to live

independently, providing them tools to stay on track financially and professionally.

After students complete the program, a formal graduation ceremony is held, followed by a party to celebrate their achievement.

## Center Spotlight

### Former St. Louis Student/Recording Artist Electrifies Center

There was plenty of foot stomping, hand clapping and arm waving going on, but it was not the typical rap concert. Former St. Louis Job Corps Center student Roderick Finch, who is now a christian rapper, rapped about the future, doing the right thing, and urged students to make their lives count by becoming successful at whatever they do and giving back to their communities.

The former Student Government Association Vice President and Advanced Career Training student spent the past two years earning his associates degree in Culinary Arts at Forest Park Community College. But,

Finch's love of music and rhyming never waned and through determination and talent he and his group, Project Freedom, were the first Christian rap artists signed to a record deal with Universal Records.

During Black History Month in February, Finch performed a concert free of charge rapping words of encouragement. He challenged students to write their own lyrics, and the winner of a competition will perform his or her song on his upcoming CD. The event instilled pride in students because Finch was a part of center-life at St. Louis and it lets them see their dreams can become a reality with hard work and tenacity.



Roderick Finch, former St. Louis Job Corps Center SGA Vice President and ACT student performed Christian Rap for students on center.

### New Greenhouse Makes the Future Green & Clear

A greenhouse that will serve as a work-based learning site, made of 100% recyclable materials, is under construction at the St. Louis Job Corps Center. The joint project between Lincoln University and the center will raise fish and

grow plants hydroponically, which means in water—without soil! Culinary Arts students will learn to clean and fillet fish, obtain certification for produce safe handling and transporting of vegetables to sell at the Farmers Market.



Photo of Greenhouse from construction manual

### St. Louis Students and Staff 'Go To Court'

An enthusiastic co-ed student team met an all-star staff team for bragging rights on the volleyball court at the St. Louis Job Corps Center. The co-ed team won the intramural tournament but quickly recognized they would have to play the staff in order to establish their true volleyball supremacy!



In a "best of three" contest, the student team defeated the staff by four points. Both teams had so much fun that a rematch is planned for the not too distant future.



Above, the staff volleyball team strikes a pose. In the photo at left, students huddle to plan their game strategy.

### GERALD R. FORD JOB CORPS CENTER / Grand Rapids, Michigan

#### "A Job with Job Corps Means Never 'Really' Saying Goodbye"

ato Howard could be tooling around Chicago, or relaxing with a good book in the comfort of his condo in the Windy City. Instead, the once retired Job Corps administrator is back in the thick of Job Corps life as the Center Director at Gerald R. Ford JCC. Howard began his career with Job Corps in the 1960s. The Memphis, Tennessee, native retired in 2004, but stepped up to the challenge as Ford's Center Director a year later at the request of MINACT President/CEO Booker T. Jones.

His primary goal is to help students become independent thinkers who are highly qualified and able to competently interact in the workforce. He expects staff and students to exhibit three qualities at all times on center:



have a quiet professionalism (using a "building voice"), be inspection-ready, and safeguard the facility. Business Community Liaison Gretchen LaHaie says Howard has the respect of staff and students because he treats everyone with courtesy and provides positive feedback and praise instead of criticism. Center Program Director James Roberts praises Howard for his ethics. "Mr. Howard is truly a man of integrity."

Howard says creating an atmosphere where students and staff can excel is vital.

"I have a great team at Ford, with three potential center directors work-

ing with me," he notes. "It doesn't get better than that."

Howard's own credentials are impressive. He graduated from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and has a Master's Degree in Educational Guidance and Counseling from Tennessee State University. His first Job Corps employment was at Earle C. Clements in Morganfield, Kentucky, (named Breckinridge at the time), where he and Jones were colleagues. Howard also held positions at the Gary Job Corps Center in San Marcos, Texas, and the Detroit Job Corps Center in Detroit, Michigan. He worked briefly in the Boston and Atlanta Regional Job Corps offices before becoming Deputy Director of the Chicago Regional office.

#### Step Team Performs on Cultural Diversity Day

The precision and creativity of the Gerald R. Ford Step Team dazzled the elementary school audience at Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center on Cultural Diversity Day in recognition of Black History Month in February. Oohs and ahhs could be heard with every move the well-trained step team members made. After the performance, team members taught some of their routines to ex-

cited youngsters in the audience. Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center students were treated to a reception prepared by Gerald R. Ford Culinary Arts students following the entertainment.

*Step Team Members (front to back): Business Technology student TeShawntanique Newell, Certified Nursing Assistant student Symethreia Darnell, Security student Michelle Graham, and Security Completer and Academic student Lameka Vann-Lewis.*



#### NCCER Core and Green Certification...Continued from front page

training sessions. The instructors received core curriculum training that includes recycling, using energy efficient products and ways to preserve natural resources. Upon completion of the training and passing the module test, the instructors become NCCER Certified.

The certified craft instructors receive a certificate and

card that identify them as NCCER certified instructors. Once students complete the core curriculum, they too receive a certificate and identification card. The names of those completing the core curriculum, along with their certification, are entered into NCCER's updated national database registry.

## Center Highlights *continued*

### EXCELSIOR SPRINGS JOB CORPS CENTER / Excelsior Springs, Missouri



Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser presented **Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center** Carpentry, Welding, Home Building Institute, Cement and Transportation Communications Union Students with a resolution to congratulate them for their EPA-Brownfield Remediation Certification. As part of their certification, the students participated in the hazardous materials clean-up of the historic Drumm Farm, a home for foster children.

### Snowbound Center Becomes Emergency Post

Folks in Excelsior Springs, Missouri are used to snow, but blizzard conditions put the town in a deep freeze in January. The town's Emergency Management Department called on the Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center to help with the hundreds of phone calls coming in for aid. The Job Corps center became the "call center" for help, with Business Community Liaison Diane Gonzalez

manning the phones taking requests from residents in need. Over a three-day period, staff and students worked to deliver water, medicine, blankets, batteries and meals to residents including home-bound senior citizens. Students and staff cleared roads, shoveled driveways, sidewalks and helped stranded motorists by "jump-starting" their vehicles. The center never missed a single call for help.



*Excelsior Springs in January after the Blizzard.*

### FINCH-HENRY JOB CORPS CENTER / Batesville, Mississippi

#### Center Presented Government Agency of the Year Award by MBS

Once again, the unselfishness of the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center family earned a commendation for its ongoing commitment to supporting community efforts to encourage blood donations. Mississippi Blood Services honored

the center's students and staff with the Government Agency of the Year Award for 2009, in recognition of the 477 pints of blood donated since 2004.

The desire to serve others is the order of the day at Finch-Henry, where students and staff have established the center as an invaluable, dynamic member of the community.

**GIVING BLOOD:** (from left) Retail Sales program student Samantha Shell and Office Assistant program students Markita Green, Tamika Robertson, Damyetra Watson, Megan Hudson and Quanisha Doty gave blood for the first time in 2009.



## Center Highlights *continued*

### HUBERT H. HUMPHREY JOB CORPS CENTER / St. Paul, Minnesota



#### The ABCs of Greening Construction

Going “green” is one way to describe new techniques Painting and Wall Covering instructor John Kaiser is teaching students at the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center. Kaiser attended a “Train the Trainer” certification class at the Finishing Trades Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. While there, he learned about new formulations of paints and techniques that are less harmful to the environment. Kaiser is sharing all the latest information on green painting and wall covering techniques with his students in his basics in green construction class.

*Painting and Wall Covering Instructor John Kaiser (standing) reviews green painting information with his students (left to right) Stephanie Kosanovich, Audrie Kedrowski, and Ricardo Warren.*

### BENJAMIN L. HOOKS JOB CORPS CENTER / Memphis, Tennessee

#### Students Help Raise Community Awareness About Health Issues



Benjamin L. Hooks JCC Phlebotomy and Certified Nursing Assistant students put their skills to the test at St. Andrew AME Church’s National Black HIV/

*Phlebotomy students (left to right) Alecia Murray, Dematria Reynolds and Demetrius Thomas stand in front of a HIV/AIDS awareness banner.*

AIDS Awareness Day. Twenty-nine Hooks students conducted Body Mass Index (BMI) testing, performed blood pressure checks and took glucose readings.

Students had a chance to share health and wellness information about diabetes, high blood pressure, and HIV/AIDS with those disproportionately affected by the diseases.

### SHREVEPORT JOB CORPS CENTER / Shreveport, Louisiana

#### Jaguars Shine in Community-Wide Spirit of Shreveport Pageant

Shreveport Job Corps Jaguar participants set the standard for excellence at the Spirit of Shreveport Pageant in January. Our students exhibited the poise and eloquence necessary to place and win the Ad Pros Advertising Agency-sponsored competition. The

community-wide pageant showcased oratorical skills and provided workshops on networking and presentation. LaDerrick Lewis, Jaguar Club President, won *Mr. Spirit of Shreveport* and Shanese Wallace was selected 1st Runner up for *Miss Spirit of Shreveport*.

*Students (left to right): Office Administration, John McHenry; Carpentry, LaDerrick Lewis, Mr. Spirit of Shreveport; Office Administration, Shanese Wallace, 1st Runner up for Miss Spirit of Shreveport; Office Administration, Dacia Miller; Office Administration, Shronda Brandon; Culinary Arts, Latrisha Black.*



# Careers Sizzle in the Kitchen in Biloxi, MS

Cooking-up futures through training and job placement is the goal of the Culinary Arts Learning Center in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The program, which is funded by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security and operated by MINACT, trains individuals from ages

18 and up impacted by Hurricane Katrina at no cost to the students. Since the program began in January 2009, 104 of the 139 graduates have been placed in jobs.

Chef Roberto Hasche of Brazil designed the curriculum. Over the course of the 12-week program, world-class chefs teach the participants how to prepare everything from luncheon trays to casseroles. Students also learn the business side of a cooking operation. When students complete the program, they are Culinary Arts Learning Center certified "work ready" with a ServSafe Certificate and a Basic Cooking Skills Certificate.



Graduating Culinary Arts Learning Center Class with Executive Chef, Roberto Hasche (back row, far right).

## Centers, Company Receive Awards, Recognitions

Spring ushered in accolades for several centers company-wide, as well as for MINACT:

- **Finch-Henry Job Corps Center**, received the Atlanta Region Earth Day Every Day Demand-Side Management Competition Award and \$4,000 to continue and expand green projects.

- **Quentin N. Burdick Job Corps Center**, presented seven (7) 2009 Program Year awards by the National

Job Corps Association (NJCA) at its Policy Forum held March 22-24, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

- \*Excellent Literacy Program
- \*Excellent GED/HSD Training Program
- \*Excellent MINACT Center
- \*Outstanding Fiscal Management
- \*Outstanding Numeracy Program
- \*Outstanding Career Transition Services Program

\*2009 12-Star Award

- **Shreveport Job Corps Center**, recipient of the Dallas Region Job Corps Center Recognition Award and \$5,000 for projects designed to conserve energy and reduce waste. Also received the National Job Corps Association 2009 12-Star Award.

- **MINACT, Inc.**, Above and Beyond Award, Most Improved Operator Participation in the NJCA Star Program.



Quentin N. Burdick Job Corps Center Management Team, showing off the center's latest seven awards.



**ADIEU, ADIEU** — MINACT Executive Secretary Kathryn Hurley and Executive Vice President Sam Devore hold a painting of Hurley by Devore's daughter, Lydia Poore. Staff bid a fond farewell to Hurley at a February luncheon in her honor upon her retirement from MINACT.