The purpose of this newsletter is to spotlight promising and best practices, research studies, policy clarifications/guidance, and tools to support program implementation. Feel free to share your success stories by e-mailing JobCorpsScholars@dol.gov.

**Announcements**

$90 Million Available in YouthBuild Program Grants
The U.S. Department of Labor announced a funding opportunity for $90 million in YouthBuild program grants to provide occupational skills training, employment services and educational support to disadvantaged youth, ages 16-24, in communities where inequalities hinder basic academic and career skills development. These funds will also provide pre-apprenticeship services for in-demand industries including construction, healthcare, information technology and hospitality.
[https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20211123](https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20211123)

**Events**

Peer-to-Peer on Effective Recruitment Strategies
This peer-to-peer session will provide an opportunity for grantees to discuss proven recruitment strategies and promising practices. Grantees can share their successes and challenges related to effective recruitment and outreach, including the use of social media.

When: December 9, 2022 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET
Where: [http://mahernet.adobeconnect.com/ra9s1oj0lt72/](http://mahernet.adobeconnect.com/ra9s1oj0lt72/)

Webinar on Developing Workforce Connections
This webinar will revisit what constitutes a comprehensive sector partnership, outline the role that the public workforce system can play in supporting JCS grantees, provide examples of best practices from peer institutions, and an interactive discussion with participants. Registration is not open yet so keep an eye on your email for an update on how to sign up as the date gets closer.

When: January 12, 2022 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

**Supporting Job Corps Scholars**

Grantee Spotlight

The Grantee Spotlight highlights promising practices and student
experiences in Job Corps Scholars programs. This month, we are highlighting Blue Ridge Community and Technical College (BRCTC).

Learn more about BRCTC’s program here: BRCTC Job Scholars Program

Marcella C’s testimony: I never thought I’d come thus far. I was laughed at after having to repeat freshman year- laughed at by the resource officer and called a “super-freshman” (which happened in his office during a meeting), which I obviously took offense to, laughed at by those in the graduating class I was meant to be with, and by other peers. I quite literally had little to no GPA my first three years. I was pulled in the wrong directions, not caring about my future or education. Although I’ve always been praised for the fact I was the first to get a car, I was the last to get a job it seemed. I graduated early from my fifth year of HS just this May. I had a guidance counselor with a beautiful soul who helped me graduate early. Mrs. Steen is her name and I believe she deserves a lot of recognition. She spoke and kept up with me throughout the situation making sure classes were going well, knowing I was homebound, and school wouldn’t make things any better due to my son’s passing. Mrs. Steen came to pick me up one morning to sign up for the test to graduate early, and even offered to take me out to lunch. Although I had the worst high school experience and suffered a tragedy which caused me to become home bound, I have my diploma. I am working my way through college; I was able to pay that car note off three months after losing my first job (due to the pandemic) and now look at where I am. I have a 4.0 GPA, and I am on The Presidents List! I HAVE been accepted into a college, which I was told would never be possible. If I’m able to overcome my boundaries and achieve dreams I thought never would come true, there are so many more young people just like myself who need to take the time and initiative to realize they have the strength, knowledge and potential to strive and accomplish their goals.

I have everyone to thank for the great opportunities I have endured, but my grandmother who’s been the one to raise me from a young child to adulthood is my miracle angel. My whole background has been inspired by her; she’s helped shape my career path. I’m very grateful for my grandmother Mary C. Greene, as well as my grandfather, her spouse Edgar W. Thomas. They’ve both been there for me when things were wrong, and I needed a helping hand. I am very excited to be a part of the Job Scholars Program here at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College. Next year, I will have acquired an Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Education. Coming from this area myself, I would never have thought a program would be accessible around here. Luckily, my significant other and I both have been grateful, and lucky enough to attend the college and serve as faces of the Job Corps Scholars program.

Q & A Spotlight

Question: If a Job Corps Student fails a course then they have to redo that program according to our college policy. Can they stay in the Job Corps Scholars program? The student can only fail one exam in one term. So she has to reapply to the program the following term. Could she continue as a Job Corps Scholars Student?

Answer: The student-participant would need to remain enrolled in the college to avoid running afoul of being “previously admitted” as outlined on page 4 of the FOA. However, a student-participant may repeat or take multiple courses in a program offered by the college. Please note that page 19 of the FOA states that the intent of the program is to fund projects that would provide “up to 12 months of career technical training, up to 6 months of developmental coursework required to successfully enter the career technical training program, intensive personal and career counseling, and up to 12 months of employment counseling services to Job Corps eligible youth (i.e., Job Corps Scholars) to help prepare them for a career.” Grantees should consider whether the student-participant would need developmental coursework to be primed for success in the career technical training. (12/22/20)

This is question 32 in the Q&A. Click here to view the full document.
Research and Resources

Toolkit: How to Effectively Organize and Manage Your Data
Ensuring the organization and management of data is essential to maximizing the grant and upholding grant reporting requirements. This guide will help you stay on track toward your goals.
https://jobcorpscareers.workforcegps.org/resources/2021/11/24/16/10/How-to-Effectively-Organize-and-Manage-Your-Data-Toolkit

Tip Sheet: Building Recruitment Pipelines
This Building Recruitment Pipelines Tip Sheet identifies proven practices in recruiting youth and young adults.
https://jobcorpscareers.workforcegps.org/resources/2021/11/24/16/31/How-to-Build-Recruiting-Pipelines-Tip-Sheet

Mental Health and Wellness at YouthBuild Programs
This tip sheet will offer grantees adaptable, evidence-based, trauma-informed approaches to recognize the symptoms of common mental health conditions; offer wellness-focused tools to better respond to the needs of program participants, staff, and alumni; and understand the pervasiveness of mental health conditions.
https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/resources/2021/03/22/13/10/Mental-Health-and-Wellness-at-YouthBuild-Programs

The Future of Healing: Shifting from Trauma Informed Care to Healing Centered Engagement
A healing centered approach to addressing trauma requires a different question that moves beyond “what happened to you” to “what’s right with you” and views those exposed to trauma as agents in the creation of their own well-being rather than victims of traumatic events.

Rural Apprenticeships for Young People – Challenges and Strategies for Success
This research report evaluates four rural registered apprenticeship programs in Maine, Arizona, Missouri, and Mississippi that have succeeded despite challenges imposed by their environments and identifies the key strategies in their approaches.

Supporting the Employment of Individuals with Learning Disabilities
While having a learning disability is a lifelong challenge, adults can be successful in the workforce when they receive the right support and accommodations. The following resources increase awareness of employment support for both businesses and employees with learning disability.

Innovative Strategies for Serving Individuals with Disabilities - Resources
This small-group peer-learning conference call was led by nationally recognized expert in workforce preparation for people with disabilities, Curtis Richards. It highlighted strategies for helping employers support employees with disabilities.
https://h1btechhire.workforcegps.org/resources/2018/08/21/13/50/Innovative-Strategies-for-Serving-Individuals-with-Disabilities-Resources

America’s Recovery: Labor Market Characteristics of People with a Disability
This Spotlight examines some of the major labor force characteristics of people with disabilities in the wake of COVID-19. It also shows that historical differences between people with and without disabilities remain largely unchanged during the pandemic and economic recovery.
https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2021/labor-market-characteristics-of-people-with-a-
COVID-19 Learning Gap: Opportunities for Educational Re-invention (AYPF Blog)
While the COVID-19 pandemic has created significant learning gaps for students nationwide, youth impacted by systemic inequities were disproportionately affected, which exacerbated disparities that already existed within our education systems.
https://www.aypf.org/blog/covid-19-learning-gap-opportunities-for-educational-re-invention/

As this new school year begins, educators are met with the challenge of not only addressing the academic needs of their students, but also their social-emotional needs that were greatly impacted by the pandemic.

Youth Employment and Training Programs Authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
This document released by the Congressional Research Service highlights the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA, P.L. 113-128) which is the primary federal statute centrally focused on workforce development.
https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11952

Join the Job Corps Career Pathways (JCCP) Community on Workforce GPS
Job Corps (JC) has created a new Community of Practice CoP to provide information to help individuals find tools and resources to serve opportunity youth and connect with education, workforce, and industry partners.
https://jobcorpscareers.workforcegps.org/

Key Policy Reminders
- Definition of Participant
- Disability Waiver Request
- ETA Covid Flexibilities