



Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center congratulates Dallin Rickabaugh for his induction into Phi Theta Kappa, an International Honor Society for two year colleges. Rickabaugh was twenty-one years old and working at Wal-Mart when his mother suggested he join the Job Corps program. He enrolled in Excelsior Springs Job Corps in May 2015 with the goal of earning Heating Ventilation Air-Conditioning (HVAC) certification offered through the Building Construction Technology trade. This goal was accomplished in less than one year, along with Mechanical Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (MVAC) certification and Work-Based Learning experience. During training, he earned the distinctions of Employability Leader and Top 6 Leader on the residential living dorms, he organized an on-center theatrical performance, and was involved with four productions at the local community theater. In spite of his involvement in extra-curricular activities, he maintained exceptional academics which earned him a two year scholarship at Penn Valley Metropolitan Community College in Kansas City, Missouri, where he is currently on the Dean's list and has a 3.9 Grade Point Average, and is on track to graduate in the Spring of 2018 with an Associate Degree in Teaching Arts. Afterward, he plans to attend the University of Missouri in Columbia, majoring in Teaching and minoring in Digital Story-Telling, and ultimately earn a Ph.D. in Film Studies. He has become a role model for his

older brother who attended Job Corps in Kentucky, completed the Electrical trade, and is currently in advance training for Solar Panel Installation.

For the third year, the **Shreveport Job Corps Center** Culinary Arts Team prepared the meal for the Caddo Parish Teachers Federal Credit Union's (CPTFCU) 54th Annual Meeting and Banquet. The members and officers were exceptionally pleased with the menu and the impeccable customer service provided by the culinary team. As guests arrived, they observed the organization and precision in which the students executed their assigned areas, and how professional they were in greeting each of them. After the meeting began, the students served the guests with what was described as expedience and grace. Members from CPTFCU recognized the students and thanked Shreveport Job Corps for rendering another year of amazing and outstanding service for the Annual Meeting and Banquet. Pictured (L-R): Students (kneeling) Jordan Zifle, Albert Taylor, DeMarcus Hooper, and Davorious Mayberry; (standing) Nicole Denison, Jaylan Jacobs, and Katisha Williams, with Center Director Curtis Shepard, and student Nikyra Thomas, Team Manager Steven Engel, and students Yasmene Williams and Shagary Gaston.



A group of **Finch-Henry Job Corps Center** Culinary Arts students recently assisted the Batesville Boys and Girls Club staff with the Annual Stake & Steak Banquet. The banquet, where Finch-Henry students assisted with serving food and beverages to 550 attendees, is the key fundraising event to support operation of the club. The theme this year was *Having a Stake in Literacy of Our Youth*, and the speaker was former lawyer and Navy fighter pilot Dickie Scruggs. He is known as the architect of litigation that resulted in a multi-billion dollar tobacco settlement. He later established Second Chance Mississippi, a non-profit collaborative effort with Mississippi community colleges to raise awareness and funds for General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and adult education efforts. Pictured (L-R): Students Aarin Logan, Ti'are Pickering, Brent Beard, Erica Wilkes, and Danial Barnes.



Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center recently started an apprenticeship program with a regional fast growing restaurant chain. To initiate the program, several Culinary Arts students were interviewed by the Human Resources Manager and the Head Chef at the local headquarters. They represented their trade so well that three were given the opportunity to give a culinary demonstration in a pseudo 'Chopped' format using a set of ingredients and access to the cooler to make a meal of their choice. Each of the three made a favorable impression that led to apprenticeship offers for all of them. Pictured (L-R): Tyler Kempert, Leonardo Rodriguez, and Tristin Custer; and Chef McKnight testing the meals they prepared.



The entire **Milwaukee Job Corps Center** Welding class recently toured SteelWind, a large capacity Midwest metal fabrication company in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Work-Based Learning Coordinator Wilfredo Vigil, Team Manager Ashley Dieringer, Trade Counselor Sofia Giles, and Trade Instructor Steve Raguse escorted the group. Nathan Liszewski,



Certified Welding Inspector from SteelWind, conducted the tour which went extremely well and was very insightful. He was impressed that every student wore the appropriate uniform and had safety glasses and steel toed boots as they had been asked to bring to the facility. The Welding students took an interest in the facility and asked very relevant questions about the work and the facility. SteelWind is a complete job shop that does heavy duty welding, sand blasting, grinding, and painting for structural building members, such as the City of Chicago and the City of Miami. They also do work for Caterpillar and Joy Global. The students were shown several Military and Navy projects that are under construction. Really unique was a welding job on a medical prototype for killing cancer

without damaging other parts of the body. One of SteelWind's top welders is a female; the students asked her questions and she told them to work hard and keep a positive attitude all the time to be successful. The Welding class is shown above with Liszewski and below on tour.





On March 31, 2017 the **Gulfport Job Corps Center** celebrated National Women’s Month (March) by having an empowerment program for the female students and staff. Each one received a tote bag and signed a *Self-Confidence Agreement*. The tote for students included: a ring to honor their commitment to themselves, a lipstick pen to remind them that appearance is the first impression, and a sparkling princess tiara to emphasize that they are beautiful. While enjoying refreshments, a video was shown which presented a motivational speaker to build self-esteem and self-confidence. The selected music for the event included songs that were all about girls and women, which added to the success of the program. There were a few tears, many smiles, and lots of pictures to add to Team Gulfport’s memoirs. Pictured Top: Some female staff members who assisted with sponsoring the event;



students enjoying the event; and student Gabrielle Grimsley with Human Resources Specialist Charlotte McLaurin.

Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center recently had a quarterly Center Workforce Council (CWC) meeting with a full agenda. Student Government Association (SGA) members and Career Technical Training students served the guests. Council members were asked to review the latest Labor Market Information for trends and changes. They also discussed outreach efforts they could provide to help the Center with recruitment of new students; opportunities for student placements; and they reviewed the electronic Training Achievement Records (eTARS) to determine if additional items are needed to keep up with industry standards. Before the next scheduled meeting in June, a CWC representative from each trade is scheduled to come back on center to conduct a walk-through of the trade classroom and training area. They will evaluate the equipment, software used, instructional books, and material taught in the trades. This was a very productive meeting that concluded with several members indicating that they would like to call in for weekly placement meetings with team managers, and assist with this process for students. Photos (L-R): SGA member Mercedes Lang serving guests; and SGA member Karlton Walker giving SGA updates.



Comments or concerns regarding the content of this publication should be addressed to jbeasley@minact.com.