

My Journey to Success

Before Job Corps I was a student at Walatowa High Charter School getting ready for graduation and still wandering what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I asked myself, “Do I want to be like some of the guys there on the rez, asking for a ride to the store just to get a six pack of beer?” Or “Do I want to have a career that will get me a good job with good pay to support my family and me?” A couple of weeks before graduation I got accepted to the Tulsa Welding School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It was going to take a lot of money to get me out to Oklahoma to attend class plus I had to find my own apartment and get my own food. My father told me about Albuquerque Job Corps and how everything was free. The rooms, food, and the education were all free. AJCC is also in New Mexico so I don’t have to travel far. That’s what brought me to AJCC.

July 28, 2015: the start date where my life will change and be better for the rest of my life. It was 5:00 am Tuesday morning and we were ready to go. My bags were packed and I was trying to rush my parents to get in the car. I was very excited to attend Albuquerque Job Corps for welding. We arrived on center right on time. I said my good byes to my parents. The Job Corps environment was nice. People, were very friendly and kind. Teachers were the best; if you need help they would help you to the best as they could and if they couldn’t they would send you to somebody who could help you get what you need.

Job Corps helped me a lot by increasing my math scores and reading, but getting into my trade was hard for me. I have never welded before in my life. Welding wasn’t hard for me to learn. I got the hang of it fast but I’m still working on how to read blueprints. My instructor

taught me a lot about education. He would always tell us a saying that I like. He would tell us “Whatever you put in to this program that is what you will get out of it.” That always makes me work even harder, so I can get something good out of this program. I know for a fact that if I don’t do anything I won’t get anything out of this program and then I would just be wasting my time. I take my instructor very serious. He’s a good man and a very good welder. Here at AJCC I will be able to get my driver’s license for free. Job Corps here in Albuquerque has so much, so much you can take in. You just need to apply yourself.

After AJCC I plan to work at MCT welding in Bernalillo with my family that works there. I could help my uncle who owns his own welding shop making cooking grills and cooking smokers. My uncle has already asked me to help him and he will pay me good. I am looking forward to getting me into a welding company and make good money to get the things I want like a truck, tools for welding, and food for my family

I can really be grateful for coming to Albuquerque and trying to start my career in welding. I’m also thankful for all the opportunities here in AJCC, and also for the staff that push me to keep moving with all their inspiring lectures and speeches. They really inspire me to finish strong and get out there and start working. I am proud to be an AJCC student. And like what the student government says, “You’re the eagle in the sky, spread your wings and fly.”