

The Future of Job Corps

Life decisions are very important, especially when you are making them. My choice to come to the Charleston Job Corp Center was a difficult one, but only because of the loved ones I had to leave behind. The life I had before job corps was not an easy one but I overcame many difficult obstacles. I attended job corps in the past and indeed I did benefit from the program.

Earl C. Clements Job Corps Center was an enormous campus with an abundant amount of vocations to choose from. I was '19' years of age going on '20' when I first attended and did not have a high school diploma nor did I have a license. My decision to enroll the first time was very important and is required to move forward in the workplace. The help I received to achieve my goal was amazing along with the great relationships I built. After three years from graduating ECCJC I realized there was so much more the program had to offer. At that time I did not take advantage of the opportunity I had been given or acquired the trade I was passionate about.

Before applying for job corps the second time I had to make sure I was eligible. As soon as my admissions counselor informed me of my admissibility I did not hesitate to inform her how I wanted to obtain a medical trade. She was very helpful in giving me great options for choosing the center and trade that would be suitable for my long term goal. Once my decision was finalized I began to take steps to better prepare myself for what was to come.

My arrival to CJCC was an interesting one, but the only important fact was that I had accomplished the first step to my personal career plan. Since my arrival I have taken cautious steps in what I will be doing here and what I plan to leave here with. At first glimpse I did not see many options laid out for me to progress productively, but then I was approached with an opportunity of participating in the student government association here on campus. I am considering all positive options that come forth my way and being part of the SGA would be a good start. Here at CJCC they have different phases in which students must reach in a punctual manner along with gaining positives. So far I have accomplished reaching my red phase in which I had to turn in '15' positives. Indeed, I plan to reach silver and goal phase which requires me to turn in an essay that states how job corps has changed my life.

Within the time that I have been here my accomplishments have consisted of raising my TABE scores, finishing health foundations, and successfully getting in to my trade. I have

accomplished raising my TABE score in numeracy going from a score of 534 and raising it to a score of 618. I am overwhelmed with my success since math is not my strong suit, but I believe it will be with further dedication on my part. By maintaining a positive attitude and continuing to thrive for greatness my ultimate accomplishment will be fulfilled.

Along with my accomplishments I have established short and long term goals. My short term goals consist mainly of my teachings and retaining the information for future reference. I take steps everyday to make sure I learn something new. Whether it be an instructor or student, I keep an open mind to what others have to show. Along with learning, my goal to maintain perfect scores seems vast but not impossible. With persistence and dedication in progressing at job corps, I believe anything can be made possible. My long term goal is to complete the program with my two trades in mind, that being medical office support and certified nursing assistant, along with going to advanced training, and taking college courses. As dedicated as I am to complete, these goals will be my reality and motivation to move forward with my future plans.

I was always told to plan ahead for the future, but also that I do not know what tomorrow will bring. It is reasonable and logical to plan ahead, especially when it involves your career. My plans for my future are broad and I anticipate for the day I can begin college course towards getting a Ph.D. in becoming a neonatal doctor. I aspire that with my goals and my accomplishments I can fulfill my future plans of becoming the doctor I have always dreamed of becoming. Once I have completed advance training I plan to take all I have learned and advance more with college courses. Hopefully, if successful, I will be working in a children's hospital shadowing doctors along with nurses in my area of interest. The love I have always had for infants and caring for them has always been a strong suit of mine. I look forward to my future and the plans I have established.

With all the negative commentary some have to make of job corps it is very obvious they clearly have not made the best of the program or even attended for themselves. As a former graduate and re-enrolled student I can properly inform future students of the positive and bountiful opportunities job corps has to offer. The program truly is what one makes it and if they can preserve a positive attitude and maintain focus on their goals and accomplishments then there are no limits to what one can accomplish here. Job corps prepares young individuals who require a second chance to make a difference in their lives. The future of job corps is bright and it is a program that should never cease to exist. The help young individuals receive from this program is truly

remarkable and limitless. Job corps helps those in need to obtain a high school diploma, driver's license, and a vocation. In addition to a vocation, they offer advance training and college courses for those who seek to advance their skills further in their chosen career. Anyone can benefit from job corps, especially those who are dedicated, focused, and ready for a brighter future.