

MUHLENBERG JOB CORPS CENTER
CHESTER EPPERSON

From Humboldt, TN

“THE FUTURE OF JOB CORPS”

Where I Was ...

Humboldt, Tennessee is a small urban town with approximately 8,000 in population. I have worked for several temp agencies in factories and didn't receive many hours of work. I wasn't making the money I wanted, there was no team work, and no respect from others. I didn't like it because it wasn't a full time job and I knew the positions weren't stable. I have a friend who went to Job Corps, he shared with me his successes so I decided to conduct a little research. I found that Muhlenberg Job Corps Center offered welding and decided to give this trade a try. After spending several months searching for jobs in Humboldt, Tennessee with very unsuccessful results, I chose to enroll into Job Corps to learn a trade that will help me be a self-supporting member of society.

Where I Am Now ...

Now, I am 63% complete with the welding course. I chose the welding trade because I like working with my hands to create things. I have only been at the Job Corps for six months and I am now certified in green environment, I have learned how to operate a fork lift, a cutting torch, and am currently learning different techniques in welding. Actually getting to weld has been the most enjoyable of all these things. I feel that when I complete my trade I will be a very good welder. Because of my current welding skills and my positive attitude, I was asked to go to Harrisonburg, VA for two weeks to help Longs Chapel Restoration Team (LCPS) accomplish a goal of restoring a church building and to make it accessible to all visitors.

During my time at MJCC, I also enhanced up my leadership skills. My dorm was in need of leaders and I decided to step up and be a vice president of the dorm. Other people thought I would be good at it. I was Vice President for a couple of months and now I have moved up to dorm President. It is a lot of responsibility to be in charge of a dorm with seventy nine students, but I get help from six other leaders. The leadership skills sets that I am learning will only help me the rest of my life. I am looking forward to a bright future when I complete my training at Muhlenberg Job Corps.

Where I Am Going ...

After completing the welding program, I am considering taking advanced training in pipe welding at Transportation Communications Union (TCU). My plans are to take multiple trades while attending the other center. I am also interested in obtaining a Commercial Drivers License- Class A. My goals include completing the trades so that I can have a good income to support my family. It is my hope to be able to work close to my hometown so I can still be close to my family. Even though I want to remain close to family, I am willing to locate anywhere a job is available for different types of welding jobs and I am open to new opportunities for any job I may qualify for. I am a young, strong man, and hope to earn substantial income through my welding career.

Future of Job Corps ...

As you have read, I, Chester Epperson, Jr., am a proud student at the Muhlenberg Job Corp Center; currently enrolled in academic and welding classes. I have been a student-employee since April 20, 2015. Job Corps has helped millions of students over its fifty years existence. I only foresee Job Corps remaining for another fifty years to help make futures even brighter for individuals such as myself. People like myself need programs such as this to give us an extra boost of confidence and stability. I am thankful for the skill sets and leadership tools I have learned and know I will continue to use in the days to come. Thank you Job Corps for turning my life around. Thank you for making me a Job Corps Success Story.