

AUG 19 2010



MEMORANDUM FROM:

EDNA PRIMROSE
National Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Edna Primrose", is written over the printed name.

SUBJECT:

Job Corps' 46th Birthday

Happy birthday to Job Corps! I am pleased to announce that August 20, 2010 marks the 46th year of Job Corps' rich history of success. As we reflect on where we've been, as well as where we're going, it is easy to be optimistic about a solid future for our program.

It is such an honor to serve as National Director for the Office of Job Corps. For more than four decades, we have been in the business of changing lives. Job Corps has positively impacted more than 2 million young people, and I am proud of the contributions our students make, both in the workplace and in their communities. I am equally as proud of the staff whose dedication and commitment enable our students to achieve their dreams.

As you know, we just completed Program Year (PY) 2009 and PY 2010 is in full swing. I am excited about the year ahead. We are opening two new Job Corps centers, Pinellas in St. Petersburg, FL and Milwaukee in Milwaukee, WI, in order to expand our capacity to serve the youth who need our program. We are implementing new initiatives such as the Centers for Excellence (CFEs), in which we will test innovative strategies for delivering high-quality, integrated training to better prepare our students for career success. We are in the final stages of completing projects funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which has enhanced our facilities, our centers' "green" environment, and the quality of our career technical training (CTT) programs. We have also implemented policies to reemphasize that Job Corps is a strong, national program.

As we enter PY 2010, we must continue to build on the momentum we gained in PY 2009. While I am very proud of our successes this past year, I think we can all agree that we have room for improvement. We want to ensure our results reflect our impact on our students' lives. We must make certain that our efforts and energy are focused on and result in credential attainment that leads to high quality placements with a career path and competitive wages.

Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis has specific goals for Job Corps in her strategic vision, "Good Jobs for Everyone." These goals, described below, are well aligned with our program's mission:

- Increase workers' incomes and narrow income inequality
- Provide skills and knowledge that prepare workers to succeed in a knowledge-based economy, including high-growth and emerging industry sectors
- Helping workers onto the path to middle-class jobs

In addition, the Job Corps program has recently returned to the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). ETA is a critical component of the nation's

workforce development system, and Job Corps' targeted efforts to serve America's youth fits well in this system. I'm excited about renewed opportunities for collaboration and maximizing resources with our One-Stop, Apprenticeship, Youth Services, and YouthBuild partners.

Remember, *our bottom line is student success*. I am counting on all of us to give our students our best. We are part of an amazing legacy, and we should be proud of the difference we are making in young people's lives. So happy birthday, Job Corps, and here's to many more!