TCU/IAM Advanced Training

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Job Corps— Where Heroes, Valor, and Leadership Come Naturally

We are quite familiar with outstanding and courageous students in the Job Corps program but having two ***alumni lauded for Valor and one for Leadership*** *in ceremonies at the Amtrak 2014 President's Safety and Service Awards Banquet in Washington, DC was nothing short of* ***SPECTACULAR!***

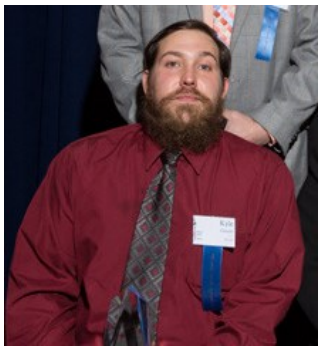
Eric Davidson is a 2005 graduate of Shriver JCC TCU/IAM Advanced Training and was originally placed at the Auto Train, Lorton, VA. He was recently recognized for Valor by Amtrak—-

Excerpt from Amtrak's November Ink magazine:

"...Passenger Conductor Eric Davidson saw a female passenger tumble from the low platform onto the tracks. This happened as a freight train was making the curve into the station. Eric rushed over to the passenger and picked her up and saved her life.

According to his nomination, Eric Davidson acted courageously and selflessly when he did not hesitate, even in the face of imminent danger, to risk his own life to save another."

Eric Davidson and Amtrak President Joseph Boardman at the President's Service and Safety Awards



Kyle Daniels and team receive Award for Valor

Kyle Daniels--2009 Shriver JCC TCU/IAM Graduate and Loring Job Corps Center transfer started as an Amtrak Track Worker in Philadelphia, PA and currently is located in Connecticut.

Kyle, with his team, was awarded the President's award for valor. His team's quick and professional action was instrumental in saving another team member. The team member was trapped between two pieces of rail and the team was successful in quickly freeing him, calling 911, and notifying the dispatcher to stop train traffic. Due to this quick response the team saved his life.

President's Award for Leadership— Anella Popo-Griffith transferred from the **Edison Job Corps Center** to the Atlanta Job Corps TCU Advanced Training program and started with Amtrak's Auto Train in 1995. She held many positions over her career including Station Manager, District Manager of Stations and most recently Route Director for the *City of New Orleans* and the *Crescent. Excerpt from the Ink: "Anella consistently engages employees to be a team by incorporating their experiences and knowledge into the business of the day," says Deputy General Manager of the Southeast Region Tom Kirk.*

Anella Popo-Griffith Receives the President's Award for Leadership

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JOB CORPS WORKS MILLIONS STRONG

Visit our website at http://tcu.jobcorps.gov

Job Corps TCU/IAM Advanced Training Students' Personal Stories of Their Paths to a Better Future

Mya Thomas, Atlanta JCC TCU/IAM student

"My initial thoughts of joining the Job Corps program came with a slight fear of the unknown. I had a hard time finding what it was that I wanted to do for the longest time. After completing the Culinary Arts trade at **Atlanta Job Corps Center**, I decided to join the TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program. I have had nothing but success since I joined! I did not realize the benefits of this program initially, but everything that I have learned here will help me to become successful in the workplace.

I recently submitted for a job at the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and I got the job! I will be working with Airport Terminal Services who provides support to Frontier Airlines as a Passenger Service Agent. This was my first interview, and I landed the job.

I'm just here to say that I am living proof that Job Corps worked for me. I made it my mission to work hard so that the fruits of my labor would pay off and sure enough it did!"

"The TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program has been a great experience. The demanding environment has pushed me to try new things and made me realize that I can do something I never thought possible. Job Corps has given me the opportunity to get hands on training in a highly sought after work skill, as well as various certifications and a driver's license.

The possibility of a solid career is a real one and I am very thankful for the opportunity.

As for my future plans, I really want to become part of a working team and be good at what I do."

Miles Titterington, Gary JCC TCU/IAM student and Wolf Creek JCC CCC transfer

Markevius Collier– Hubert H. Humphrey student and Muhlenberg transfer

"When I learned about Job Corps, I saw the opportunity to not only get my life back, but to fulfill my purpose and maybe even turn my dreams into a reality.

My journey began at a Job Corps Center in **Muhlenberg,** KY. I enrolled in the CNA program and obtained every medical certification I could: Certified Nursing Assistant, Certified Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, EKG Technician, and Phlebotomy Technician. I had taken a giant first step, but I knew I had a lot more potential.

With the same fire residing in the pit of my chest, I arrived at the Humphrey Center to attend the TCU/IAM program on June 11, 2013. My long-term goal of becoming a conductor was coming to fruition. I've completed the basics of the TCU/IAM program and am currently searching for a conductor position. While working with the railroad company, I WILL get my associates degree and I WILL have a career that provides me with the benefits necessary to support myself and my family in the future." ***(This is an excerpt from Markevius' graduation speech. He is now employed by Union Pacific Railroad starting at $20/hr.)***

Students Who Know That Attitude Is The Key to Altitude!

Sheila Ruan Lawrence, St. Louis JCC TCU/IAM student

"My name is Sheila Ruan Lawrence; I was born in the Dominican Republic, where I was raised speaking Spanish. In 2010 I moved to St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands and in 2013 while living there I found out about the Job Corps Program and made the decision to join it. I was initially assigned to the **Penobscot JCC.** While attending there, I did the Welding Trade. As my completion date approached, I began to think about the next stage in my life. My instructor introduced me to the TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program and I decided to apply. I gained acceptance in April 2014 and I was assigned to the St. Louis location.

My experience in this program has been a complete pleasure; full of learning new knowledge. I have been afforded the opportunity of becoming better prepared for my career as a Conductor. St. Louis has an awesome, incredible and very helpful staff. They make the impossible to become possible when it comes to helping students reach their goals. Here in St. Louis we get the privilege of using a hands-on room with a simulated coupler/knuckle, air brake system, brake shoes, and much more. Also, we get the opportunity of going on field trips to the Railroad yards. The trips give us a better idea of the things that we are going to be doing once we get hired.

If asked, I would recommend the Job Corps TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program to anyone who is willing to learn and become the best they can be for a better future. If someone is willing to work the program, the program will work for you. It is worth it!"

Ricky Nelson, Potomac JCC TCU/IAM student and Homestead JCC transfer

For me the Job Corps' mission "to help train young people through vocational training" has been accomplished. My name is Ricky Nelson Jr. and like most other first born children in America I was the hope and dream of my parents. But those dreams were halted the day I decided to drop out of high school. That's where Job Corps stepped in.

Thanks to Job Corps, I now have my high school diploma, a number of valuable certifications and something priceless, the confidence to know that despite my past failures and current circumstances I have not only the ability to change, but the ability to succeed at whatever I put my mind to. Whether it is concerning school, or otherwise. That's why I know that my time in my current program the TCU/IAM Advanced Training is time well spent. I know that when I leave the program, I will leave with a career in the dream field of transportation.

That's why I'm so grateful. Grateful that God put such a wonderful program such as Job Corps and TCU/IAM Advanced Training in my path, because without Job Corps I don't know where I would be.

TCU/IAM Advanced Training Students are in Control of Their Futures!

TRANSPORTATION PLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

NAYYIRAH HARPER
Gary TCU/IAM
BNSF
Conductor Trainee
$26.42/hr.

LAUREN WOODS
Los Angeles TCU/IAM
AMTRAK
Ticket Clerk
$14.27/hr.

TARSHA BARNETT
Potomac TCU/IAM
Piedmont Airlines
Ramp Agent
10.10/hr.

BRITTANI SHUART
San Jose TCU/IAM
Frontier Airlines
Ramp Agent
$9.55/hr.

JASON TROTT
Shriver TCU/IAM
AMTRAK
Baggage Agent
$13.85/hr.

AMARIAH EDWARDS
St Louis TCU/IAM
CSX
Conductor
$15.29/hr.

AL MUSTAFA NELSON-EL
Excelsior Springs TCU/IAM
AEP River Ops
Deckhand
$16.37/hr

BLAKE BAILEY
HH Humphrey TCU/IAM
BNSF
Track Laborer
$15.00/hr.

ANJELICA HOOKS
Atlanta TCU/IAM
AirServ
Ramp Agent
$7.25/hr.

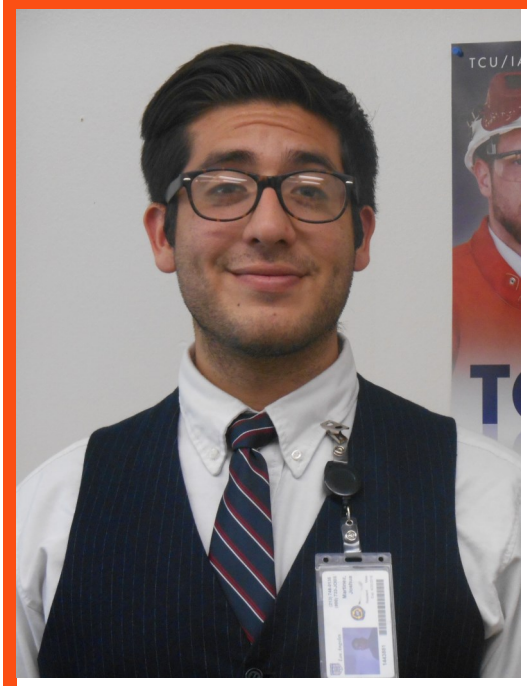
"Before coming to Job Corps my life was completely disorganized and chaotic. I was 24 years old and going absolutely nowhere. Now, 2 years later, I am proud to say that my life is on track and I am confident that my future will be successful. The staff has helped me to see how much potential I have and given me the keys that I needed to get to where I wanted to be.

Coming to the TCU/IAM program (from the **Curlew JCC CCC**) wasn't an easy decision for me, but it's a decision that I am glad that I made. The staff has helped to motivate me to go for the jobs that I truly want and not to settle. I know that I can do absolutely anything that I set my mind to.

After I graduate the program and go on to start my career, I plan on taking everything that I've learned here with me. I know that because of what I've learned here, I am going to go far in my career. Job Corps not only helped me to gain the knowledge and skills I needed to get the job that I wanted, this program has made me a better person all around.

I look forward to my future knowing that I am not just going to have any job; I am going to have a career that I love."

Kristina Byers, Excelsior Springs JCC TCU/IAM student



Joshua Martinez, Los Angeles JCC TCU/IAM student

"I have been in the TCU/IAM program for five months now, and I must say I have learned and dusted off a few skills that will better prepare me for the work force. TCU/IAM has helped me see the bigger picture and that dedication will eventually pay off. Since being in this program I have grown as a person, knowing and understanding what responsibility is and how important it is to be prepared for tomorrow. What I learned from CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and TCU/IAM, is safety comes first and expect the unexpected. I have a network of supporters and the resources necessary in achieving my goals.

I hope one day to become a pilot or an AMTRAK conductor or engineer. I came into TCU/IAM knowing there are no guarantees; all that I will receive from this program is what I put into it, so thank you for this ongoing opportunity!"

Job Corps TCU/IAM Advanced Training Students Reaching For and Finding Success!

Lechanda C. Rollines,
Shriver JCC TCU/IAM student

"My journey has been very difficult, fun, overwhelming, and filled with life lessons. I began my journey in January, 2013 when I enrolled into the Medical Administrative Assistant program at **Oneonta Job Corps Academy**. It was there that I discovered the opportunity for advanced training, TCU/IAM, a field that I have so desperately wanted to work in since the age of 8.

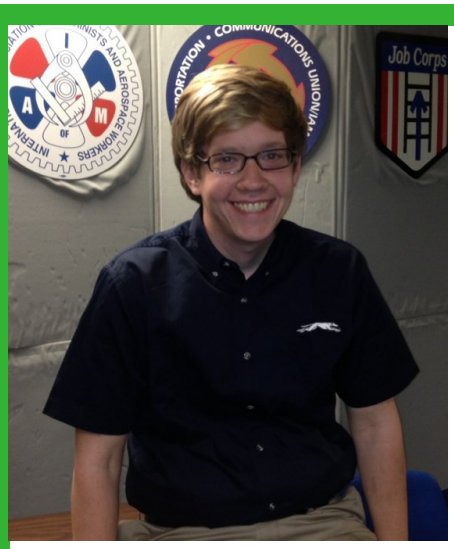
This program has provided me with the skill sets and knowledge that I needed in order to obtain a position that would set me up for the rest of my life. I will not lie and say this program was easy or even desirable at all times. However, I will say that without Job Corps and TCU/IAM Advanced Training, my dream probably would not have ever come true.

So today I would like to thank all who helped! Thank you to all that have genuinely supported me from the very beginning."

"My name is Errin Arnold. I got help in an unusual subject, life. Along with Business Mathematics, Keyboarding, Transportation, Communications, and Airlines as a Specialty TAR, I learned to collaborate in groups, and how to act in a professional office setting. I learned that working is not always just about getting the work done, but working together as a team. The class work is not all that difficult and it supplies the KNOWLEDGE needed to get that dream job.

Now, one year later, I will be leaving with an amazing opportunity with Southwest Airlines. I wouldn't have been able to do it without the TCU/IAM Staff."

Errin Arnold, San Jose JCC TCU/IAM student and
Treasure Island JCC transfer



Mathew Harley Robinson,
San Jose JCC TCU/IAM student

"My name is Mathew Harley Robinson. I have been enrolled in Job Corps since May 2012, and I came to San Jose to attend TCU/IAM in October 2013. During my time enrolled in the program, I got my high school diploma and driver's license. I got a lot of leadership training. I have learned so much during my duration enrolled in the program. The most important thing I have learned is that you cannot rely on others too much. If you really want something out of life, you have to get it for yourself. Others can help, but don't expect them to do it for you.

I am currently transitioning out of the program. I am currently working at Greyhound, here in San Jose. I have been employed there for the past three months."

Celebrating 50 Years of Job Corps and the Many, Many Thousands of Lives It Has Changed

Christy Miller, Potomac JCC TCU/IAM graduate and Muhlenberg JCC Transfer

Christy Miller Returns to Say Thanks

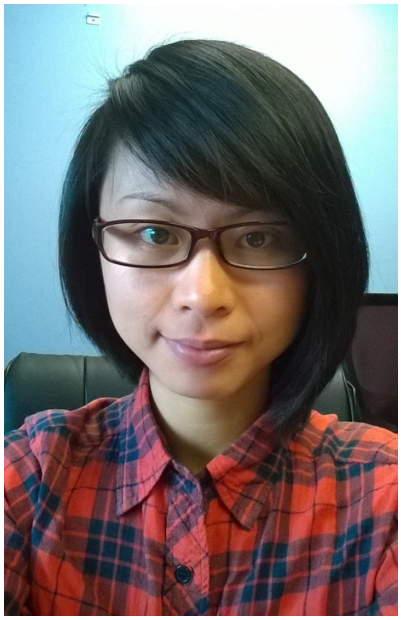
Potomac JCC TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program graduate, Christy Miller, returned recently to visit with current students in the program. Christy graduated from the **Muhlenberg JCC**, completing her trade as CNA. She impressed the staff at TCU/IAM immediately with her dedication to her work and her outgoing personality. She worked as the TCU/IAM student receptionist and was then picked for a work based learning opportunity with Amtrak's Human Capital department in Washington, DC. Christy was a favorite among Amtrak staff and was quick to interview for a Coach Cleaner position where she works today in Ivy City, Washington, DC. Christy has worked at Amtrak for 10 months now and when asked what her plans are for the future she said "*Assistant Conductor and I eventually want to drive the train. That is really what I want to do.*"

Wei Wei Shi—Promoted

2007 Shriver JCC Graduate
Amtrak -Shop Clerk $14.90/hr.
Promotion: Foreman III $33.00/hr.

"I think helping to prepare my resume, and the mock interview was most helpful for me. I remember you guys told me that I needed to focus on my strengths. I wrote them down on a piece of paper and read it to myself on the train ride to my interview. It was my first ever interview, and I passed. I tried to look for that same service while I was in college but it was not the same. The staff who did the mock interview with me didn't know who I am. TCU/IAM helped me get started on my feet, and lots of my college friends are jealous of me. I'm glad that this program is getting bigger.

Thank you all so much for having faith in me! It gave me confidence and strengths. Whatever I have today, I owe it all to you guys. Thanks!"



Wei Wei Shi, Shriver JCC TCU/IAM graduate

Abdul Newton –Moving up the Ladder at CSX

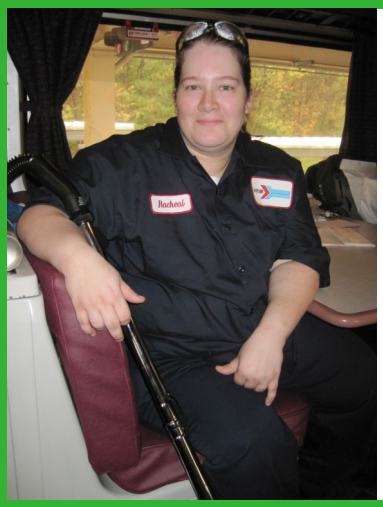
Abdul Newton, Potomac JCC TCU/IAM graduate

Potomac JCC TCU/IAM Advanced Training program graduate, Abdul Newton, returned to the Potomac Job Corps Center in Washington, DC, recently, to speak with current students. Abdul transferred from the **Muhlenberg JCC** where he completed his trade in Heavy Equipment and received his CDL license and his Fork Lift certification. Abdul transferred to Potomac TCU/IAM Advanced Training in January of 2012. Accustomed to working with his hands, he had to make a lot of adjustments to the office setting, strict rules, regulations, and amount of coursework that you must embrace as a TCU/IAM trainee.

Abdul was hired with CSX near Baltimore, MD in June of 2013 as a Utility Laborer making 19.26/hr. "I kept to myself, I was there to do a job and I wanted to do a good one, so I kept my head low and worked really hard" Abdul said. Since Abdul's hire he has been **promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator making $26.87/hr.** Last year, with overtime, Abdul made over $70,000 and is very happy in his apartment and his two cars that he has already paid off.

When you ask Abdul what he plans to do next; "*I don't see myself moving anywhere. I have a good job and I have a little seniority now. I will be in this job for a long time.*"

Evidence of Job Corps TCU/IAM Advanced Training's Success… Alumni Love their Careers!



Rachel Sager- Happy Working at Amtrak

Rachel enrolled in the **Dayton Job Corps Center** in 2006 and took up Health Occupations. She transferred to the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center in 2007 enrolling in the TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program.

Ms. Sager graduated from the TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program July 2008 and was hired as a Coach Cleaner with Amtrak in Washington, D.C. making $13.60 per hour. She is now working as Coach Cleaner at the Amtrak Auto Train in Lorton, Virginia earning approximately $20.00 per hour.

"I enjoyed my time at our Hubert H. Humphrey location and I love my job at Amtrak Auto Train."

—Rachel Sager– Hubert H. Humphrey JCC TCU/IAM graduate

Calvin Weston —Moving Up the Ladder at Amtrak

"I entered **Earle C. Clements Job Corps** in 1989 after leaving Fayetteville, a small town outside of Atlanta, GA. I transferred to Hubert H. Humphrey, TCU in the late 1990's where I entered the program not knowing what to expect. However, after several months in the program I was hired at Amtrak on November 14, 1991 as Accounts Payable Clerk.

Within 3 months of working at Amtrak I received my first promotion. Over the years I've received multiple promotions from A/P Clerk, General Accountant, Real Estate Accountant and currently Senior Accountant in Fixed Assets/ Capital Accounting. Additionally, Amtrak paid for a portion of my college. I've received 2 degrees from the Community College of Philadelphia and my Bachelors from Temple University."

— Calvin Weston– Hubert H. Humphrey JCC TCU/IAM Graduate

Anthony Nichols —Moving Up the Ladder at Amtrak

"Before starting TCU in 1990, I was in a St Louis, MO county community college, taking Graphic Arts classes. A family friend informed me of a training program that taught office and railroad skills. Not fully enjoying Graphic Arts, a friend and I decided to look into and sign up for the training program, which was TCU. What we didn't know is that it was a part of Job Corps. Truthfully, we sat outside the center debating to proceed. I didn't really know what to expect from Job Corps. Fortunately, I decided to put any reservations aside and go for it. It is probably one of the best decisions I've made in my life.

I was there from mid to late 1990 until I interviewed and was hired by Amtrak in July 1991. I've been with Amtrak ever since. I've been a part of the TCU union my entire time with Amtrak, starting out as an invoice clerk, moving to a Lead clerk and eventually into Management. As an alternate start in life for young people, I definitely recommend and tell people about the positive experience that I had with Job Corps and the TCU program."

—Anthony Nichols- St. Louis JCC TCU/IAM Graduate