

2001 Information Technology Scholarship Winners

Joseph D. Cole

Joseph D. Cole is currently enrolled in the Connecticut Job Corps Center where he earned his GED and is working to complete Computer Aided Drafting. Not only has Joseph achieved such honors as Student of the Month and Highest Achievement/GED, but he also assisted in the design of the Wellness Center. According to his instructors, he has excelled in his grasp of all trade components, including theory, skills demonstration, leadership, and personal commitment to his trade as a career path.

Joseph has aspirations to enroll in Auburn University to work towards his Master's Degree in Architecture and eventually become a well-known residential architect with his own firm. Joseph's indicates his goal is to "... *utilize my skills to build my career from the ground up, much like architecture itself, until I can achieve my ultimate goals in life.*"

Jason D'Angelo

Jason D'Angelo is currently a student at the Edison Job Corps Center, as a transfer student from the Oneonta Job Corps Academy. Jason has high aspirations of continuing his education and training in the IT Field at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Of his many accomplishments while in Job Corps, Jason has earned his GED, completed A-level in welding and Business Clerical courses, and volunteers his time to lead center tours and tutor his peers. Jason's instructors have echoed that he is ambitious, trustworthy, and knowledgeable of computer functions and operations, which will help him fulfill his long-term goal of working for a company such as Microsoft. Jason says, "*I do my best to stay focused and be a positive role model.*"

Jordan Lyda

Jordan Lyda is a student at the Great Onyx Civilian Conservation Job Corps Center, where he earned his high school diploma and completed the Business Technology trade. Jordan is a gifted academic student and has done well in the Western Kentucky University college classes that are offered on center. Jordan became a full-time college student in January 2002, majoring in computer science. He has been on the 2000 Academic team and was Student of the Month for July 2001. His instructor indicated that he has clearly demonstrated keen abilities, skills, and insights in the computer technology field. Jordan came to Job Corps intending to "...*begin my official education in the computer field. Computers are where much of today's business is moving and I intend to make the best career of this as I can.*"

Dennis Robinson

Dennis Robinson is currently a student at the Homestead Job Corps Center where he is enrolled in the Computer Repair Technician trade. Dennis received his high school diploma from South Dade Senior High School. While in Job Corps, Dennis achieved several honors including Community Service, Computer and Leadership Award, and Student Government Association Public Relations Coordinator. Dennis also started the first Chess Club at the Homestead Job Corps Center. Dennis explains, *“The IT field is exciting and challenging. There is no limit to the information I can absorb. I will excel!”* His goals include working for a large corporation, or even better, owning his own computer company. Dennis’ instructors have nothing but positive things to say about him including what an outstanding, dedicated, and respectful individual he is.

Pedro Escobedo

Pedro Escobedo is a student at the Chicago Job Corps Center. He is a high school graduate, and a Computer Operator vocational completer. He is currently working towards a degree in Computer Science at the Richard Daley College, where he has maintained a 3.6 GPA. Pedro has received honors such as Student of the Month for exceptional achievement in the Computer Operator training course. His career goal is to obtain his Associate’s Degree in computers and a Bachelor’s Degree in computer programming. Pedro says, *“I want to do better and greater things than Microsoft, by pleasing the public and making life easier for everyone.”* Pedro is described as a superb example of success on any comparable level. He volunteers his time and expertise to assist faculty in the classroom, computer lab, and in the administrative departments to help meet deadlines.

Cristobal Rivera

Cristobal Rivera currently attends the David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center. He acquired his high school diploma and completed the advanced Electronic Assembler Vocational Training curriculum, as well as the C-Tech Computer Cable Installer program and the A+ Certification course. Currently Cristobal is pursuing a degree in Computer Science at El Paso Community College, under the auspices of Job Corps’ Advanced Career Training (ACT) program. Cristobal has demonstrated strong leadership qualities, and is a mentor and role model to his peers. He has served as Student Government Vice President and is a member of the Academic Olympic Club. In his words, *“I am grateful to this program for the stupendous opportunities it gives to individuals like myself, who have the potential to reach very far, but unfortunately sometimes do not have enough resources to do so.”*

Matthew B. Zinnel

Matthew Zinnel's instructors describe him as polite, articulate, enthusiastic, innovative, and very personable. He is always willing to help both students and staff when called upon. Matt, a student at the Dension Job Corps Center, earned his GED, completed the Data Terminal and Receptionist vocational trade, and is currently working towards completing Word Processing. He says, "...computers are my life...the reason why I chose to be a computer programmer, and not a network specialist or a software technician is because the whole idea of being able to write programs - whether it be security, anti-virus programs, or operations systems - and to make the program whatever you want it to be was very interesting and exciting to me." Among his many other interests and accomplishments, Matt volunteers for special projects such as the Donna Reed Foundation, and is a student presenter at the center's annual Congressional Day event.

Charity Sibal

Charity Sibal is a student at the Clearfield Job Corps Center and intends to enroll at Weber State University upon graduation from Job Corps. Charity received her high school diploma from Salem High School, completed her nursing assistant vocational trade, and obtained her Associate Science Degree in Computer Science in the spring of 2002. Her many achievements include Honor Roll recognition at Weber State University, and a College Reading and Learning Association tutoring certificate. She has proven to be a very hard worker and always strived to set realistic goals for herself according to center staff. Charity said, "My major is Software Engineering and I am constantly enjoying what I am learning and doing in the field of computer technology."

Karine McElderry

Karine is a student at the Phoenix Job Corps Center and is currently enrolled at the Phoenix College under the Advanced Career Training (ACT) program. She has been an exceptional student at the college level and spends time in the Job Corps Computer Resource Learning Center aiding other trainees and assisting with class instruction. Karine earned her GED and has completed the Computer Service Technician vocational trade, in addition to the Computer Network Technician course. She participated in setting-up the English Computer System for the Women's Organization at the Arabic Center. Karine says, "My long term goals are to acquire a PhD in Computer Science, and more importantly to become a Computer Network Engineer." Karine's instructors indicate that she has exhibited a willingness and determination that has been nothing less than inspiring to her fellow trainees and staff.

Jacob Harris

Jacob Harris is currently a student at the Cascades Job Corps Center, and at the Skagit Valley College, where he proudly achieved the Honor Roll last spring quarter with a 4.0

Attachment A

average. Jacob is also a Business Clerical completer and is admired by staff and college instructors for being motivated, knowledgeable, and a team player. Jacob's honors and achievements while in Job Corps include earning his GED and being selected as the Advanced Career Training (ACT) program and School-to-Work Student of the Month. Jacob indicates, "*The Information Technology field has always been an interest to me since the fifth grade when I owned a computer for the first time.*" He goes on to say that the IT field "*offers tremendous challenges and the potential to continue to expand my skills and education.*"