

September 4, 2008

DIRECTIVE: JOB CORPS PROGRAM INSTRUCTION NO. 08-07

TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
 ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
 ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
 ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
 ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
 ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: ESTHER R. JOHNSON, Ed.D.
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SUBJECT: Constitution Day

1. Purpose. Constitution Day is a federal holiday that recognizes the ratification of the United States Constitution, and also recognizes all who have become citizens due to either coming of age or naturalization. It is observed on September 17, the day the U.S. Constitution Convention signed the Constitution in 1787.

2. Background. In 1939, William Randolph Hearst advocated, through his chain of daily newspapers, the creation of a holiday to celebrate citizenship. In 1954, President Truman moved the holiday to the date of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, September 17, and changed the name to Citizenship Day.

The holiday progressed through the years, and in December 2004, Senator Robert Byrd attached a provision to the Consolidated Appropriations, 2005 (Pub. L. 108-447). This provision changed the name of Citizenship Day to Constitution Day and mandated that educational institutions receiving federal funds must instruct students on the U.S. Constitution on September 17, or the following week if September 17 falls on a weekend or holiday.

3. Action. Due to an intentional lack of specific directives for implementing Constitution Day in the classroom, Job Corps centers are free to provide a wide array of programming for their students. Listed below are a few of the variety of educational resources available online to assist with this task:

- a. *The Constitution Day Implementation Guide* – This document provides information on everything from the notice of implementation from the U.S.

Department of Education to sample programming ideas and constitutional links and resources. This guide was developed in 2005 by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and can be downloaded free from:

<http://www.naspa.org/policy/guide.pdf>.

- b. *Education World* – An online resource developed to allow educators to more easily integrate the Internet into the classroom, this site provides an entire page of helpful links and suggested classroom activities at:
http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson347.shtml.
- c. *The National Archives* – Provides the “Charters of Freedom” Web site that offers an interactive constitution at:
http://www.archives.gov/national_archives_experience/charters/constitution.html.
In addition, the National Archives has a nationwide network of research facilities, including presidential libraries. Information about the facilities (by region and state) can be located online at: <http://www.archives.gov/facilities/index.html>.

4. Expiration date. September 18, 2008.

5. Inquiries. For additional information on celebrating the birthday of our government, please refer to The National Constitution Center, <http://www.constitutioncenter.org/ConstitutionDay/>, or contact Elizabeth Destreza at destreza.elizabeth@dol.gov.