

**DIRECTIVE: JOB CORPS PROGRAM INSTRUCTION NOTICE NO. 25-05**

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

FROM: ERIN MCGEE
Administrator
Office of Job Corps

Erin
McGee

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Erin McGee
Date: 2026.04.21
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SUBJECT: Job Corps Participation in National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) – April 26–May 2, 2026

1. Purpose. To strongly encourage all Job Corps centers to actively participate in the 12th annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW), a nationwide celebration of Registered Apprenticeship as a proven workforce strategy.
2. Background. The Administration and the Department of Labor (DOL) are focused on advancing and accelerating Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) to provide job seekers with expanded access to earn-while-you-learn opportunities. A Registered Apprenticeship Program is a program registered by the Department's Office of Apprenticeship or State Apprenticeship Agency in accordance with the registered apprenticeship regulations at 29 CFR part 29. Job Corps is uniquely positioned to demonstrate its value in supporting this effort by helping place Job Corps graduates into RAPs. This priority aligns with DOL's broader emphasis on strengthening pathways into in-demand industry sectors and occupations, and on building a stronger workforce system that connects young people to high quality training and long-term career opportunities. Job Corps Center operators and National Training Contractors (NTCs) can support and advance these efforts by working with Registered Apprenticeship sponsors, employers, training providers, and federal partners to expand opportunities for students to transition directly into RAPs upon completion.

20 CFR 686.710 states that Job Corps career transition services focus on placing program graduates in: "(a) full-time jobs that are related to their career technical training and career pathway that lead to economic self-sufficiency; (b) postsecondary education; (c) advanced training programs, including registered apprenticeship programs; or (d) the Armed Forces."

20 CFR 668.505 also outlines RAPs as advanced training; meaning that Job Corps students may begin a RAP while in Job Corps and later transition into their full-time RAPs upon completion of the Job Corps program. *See* PRH 3.1(R1)(f)(2).

3. Action. Centers and NTCs are each strongly encouraged to host at least **one** NAW event during April 26–May 2, 2026. Suggested activities include:

- i. Host a NAW Webinar or Virtual Panel:
 - a. Invite local employers, Registered Apprenticeship sponsors, NTCs, and workforce partners to discuss registered apprenticeship pathways.
 - b. Feature Job Corps alumni who transitioned into Registered Apprenticeships.
- ii. Share Success Stories:
 - a. Share success stories of Job Corps students entering Registered Apprenticeships with your regional office; including creating student profiles and leveraging these resources for center community outreach and engagement.
 - b. Use official hashtags (#NAW2026, #ApprenticeshipUSA) and tag local workforce partners.
 - c. Interview and feature in NAW outreach efforts, Job Corps alumni who have entered Registered Apprenticeships and are endorsed by center operators.
- iii. Registered Apprenticeship Signing Ceremony:
 - a. Conduct in-person or a live-streamed signing event for Job Corps graduates entering into a RAP.
 - b. Follow PRH Chapter 1.1, R5 -R9 and submit promotional materials to OJC for approval to post on your social media and center websites.
- iv. Skills Demonstrations with Employers:
 - a. Host a showcase for employer partners and/or Registered Apprenticeship sponsors highlighting Job Corps students' readiness for registered apprenticeship pathways.
 - b. Leverage the Partner Finder | Apprenticeship.gov to locate nearby employers that offer registered apprenticeship opportunities, and invite Registered Apprenticeship sponsors and NTCs to events on center.
- v. Educational Outreach to Sponsors and the Workforce System:
 - a. Conduct informational sessions for Registered Apprenticeship sponsors, local workforce development boards, American Job Centers, and ETA grantees, to learn about Job Corps and how students can transition into Registered Apprenticeships opportunities.
 - b. Consider leveraging OJC existing resources available online here: Workforce Outreach | JC Materials Marketplace

4. Effective Date: Immediately

5. Expiration Date. December 1, 2026

6. Inquiries. Direct inquiries about this Program Instruction Notice to OJC's Policy Director, Michelle Mills at Mills.Michelle.V@dol.gov.