

Nero and associates, inc.

Nero Challenges Youth, Parents, And Community



David Nero, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer

Let's deal with cold, hard realities. If you are old enough and educated enough to read this newspaper, you are old enough to know that the truth is not always pretty—but recognizing it, is always useful.

Let's talk about education. If you come from a "disadvantaged" background in this country—whether your "disadvantage" comes from having a different colored skin or an empty wallet, or both—education is going to play a key role in determining which direction your life takes and where you end up. That is an undeniable fact of life. Whether you like school or not, you are going to be affected for the rest of

your life by your relationship to education.

One of the most painfully obvious consequences of not achieving success in the classroom is how much more difficult it makes it for you to achieve success in employment and careers. That is another cold hard fact of life. But you notice I did not say that makes it impossible—more difficult, yes; but impossible, no!

That's one of the things that Job Corps is about: Providing an alternative route to career success for youth—maybe you—who have found traditional educational systems unrewarding. The truth is that the greatest harm

comes to those who run from educational difficulties and begin to lose confidence in themselves, and finally lose their self respect. Those feelings of a lack of self esteem and accomplishment make it just that much harder to overcome the "disadvantages" that color of skin or lack of money impose upon us in this society. It makes some of us stop working hard toward success because we think it is beyond our grasp. Don't you believe for one minute that it has to be that way. There are hundreds of Job Corps Alumni possessing college degrees, up to and including Ph.D.'s. Thousands holding down upper middle class jobs and all successful graduates are employed with most on a career path.

Helping young people reconstruct their self-esteem is a big part of the Job Corps effort and experience. Job Corps makes it possible for young people to begin to believe in themselves and their potential again—or often for the first time.

We live in a country in which there is an opportunity for everyone to succeed with a guarantee of success. We all know the words—our country is committed to concepts like democracy, equality, and liberty. We also know that it has taken a long hard struggle of more than two hundred years to make those words even close to reality for most of the country's minorities and poor people.

Formal education, because of often reflected white middle and upper middle class American values and expectations, has often been a barrier to minority and disadvantaged youth rather than an avenue to success and

achievement. Many racial minorities, many poor people, were bound not to feel comfortable or succeed in that environment. Remember, I told you that the truth isn't always pretty—but recognizing it, is always useful.

Under the Job Corps Act Program (Advanced Career Training) typically, a qualifying high school graduate or GED recipient meeting college entrance requirements may enter the Job Corps and at the same time enter a junior or four-year college, complete the requirements for an Associates Degree in their chosen career field at the expense of Job Corps. While, at the same time, obtaining a clothing allowance, health and dental care, food, housing, counseling, recreation and to top it all off, muster out of the program with both a degree and a bankroll in excess of \$3,000 that Job Corps has put aside. The individual may then enter the work force or elect to continue their educational pursuits for higher degrees. Take the case of Paulette Robinson for instance, one of our very own, born and bred in Portland, Oregon. Paulette started out working at Nero and Associates as a receptionist in 1972. Mrs. Freddy Petett, also a member of the Nero staff, counseled her and recommended the Job Corps. Today, Paulette, has her Ph.D and holds a high position with the Urban League in Columbus, Ohio.

The youth of today who have not enjoyed great success in traditional educational settings need to understand that such lack of success is not necessarily proof of failure or inadequacy. You need to know that lack of success,

does not automatically mean lack of merit, capability or potential. What it does mean is by recognizing these truths you can make a personal decision, a personal commitment not to become or stay a victim of the system. The choice—and there really is a choice—is up to you.

Job Corps can help you with that decision and in making your potential a reality. It requires strong personal motivation on your part. Training is no guarantee of success—but one thing is guaranteed: without training, it is much more difficult or impossible to compete in the modern job market and much more likely that the comforts and benefits of modern life will be out of your reach. Who can do something about it? You can. Your responsibility to yourself and your own self interest, family, community, and even your nation requires that you excel in your training. It's up to you.

Job Corps offers you more than job training alone. You'll have the opportunity to learn about and be the recipient of excellent health services and a nutritious diet. You'll have access to medical and dental care on a level not often found in "disadvantaged" circumstances. You will get to meet and come to know people from other cultures, other areas with other ideas and perspectives. And perhaps, most importantly, you will learn about yourself—and that is the most useful and most precious knowledge of all.

You have a chance today to decide that you will not be one of those youth left behind and trapped in your own "disadvantages." If you are between 16 and 21 years of age, decide now to use Job

Corps as an opportunity to excel.

The Job Corps Program is putting forth special efforts to attract young women ages 16 to 24 for both the Resident and non-Resident programs. This includes women with a child or children. Currently, and more so in the future, there will be great demands for skilled women in the work force.

I've pointed out some of the harsh realities as well as some opportunities that life offers each of you. Now you have a choice to make—go for success or settle for failure. And if you fail, you can blame it on racism—if you want to. You can blame it on sexism—if you want to. You can blame it on a lack of money or economic resources—if you want to. But if you say and accept those things—as right as they might be—you will not be a better person for it. You will still be their victim.

But let me make one thing very clear to you. If you fail to achieve success, there is one thing you cannot say: You cannot blame it on a lack of opportunity because the Job Corps gives that opportunity to you today. Seize it.

By the way, did I mention that you get paid while you are training in Job Corps? You do. They also put money aside for you so that when you complete your training you will have a nest egg. Now that's one of life's prettier realities!

Contact our local Job Corps office, 520 S.W. 5th Ave., Suite 1225, Cascade Building, Portland, Oregon 97204. Call — (503) 225-1941 or Toll-Free 1-800-452-5218 ... Now and learn how you can take your first big steps toward success. Men 16 to 21; Women 16 to 24.

Would You Say NO To One-Half Million Dollars? That Is What You Do ... When You Drop-Out Of High School

Meet James Taylor age 22 (left) and Neal Blackwell age 23 (right) who are enrolled in the Springdale Job Corps Center.

After becoming painters they transferred to Springdale and currently are enrolled in Auto Body Painting.

They pushed hard while in painting and completed in 7 months. Both had high school diplomas when they entered. Most do not, and work at getting a GED along with their job skills. James said about himself, "You come to get your trade. It'll help me get a better job."

James and Neal are friends and entered Job Corps about the same time. Neal said, "I was tired of just hanging around doing nothing and going no where with my life."

Job Corp was a chance to get ahead for Neal and James, and was free. Neal said, "I try to strive hard." And about Job Corp they say, "It brought me a long way. It's taught me a trade, how to work, and how to give a little extra. Once you accomplish it, no-one can take it away from you. That's why we're here. We were actually taught the trade. Now we're excellent painters. You're making a mistake to drop out of school. You should be someplace like Job Corps, and do something you enjoy doing, not wasting time."



James Taylor, age 22 (left) and Neal Blackwell, age 23 (right), who are enrolled in the Springdale Job Corps.

Learn How You Can Take Your First Big Steps Toward Success!
Men 16 to 21 — Women 16 To 24

FACT: 9 Out Of 10 Youths From Job Corps Got Jobs Last Year!

Currently, 2500 women and men are enrolled in Northwest Job Corps and most end up with jobs. In fact, nine out of every ten youth from Job Corps got jobs last year.

As you walk around the premises of any of the ten Job Corps Centers you notice a calm atmosphere, with clean surroundings that are well kept.

What Else Will You Receive At Job Corps?

- Recreation programs
- Paycheck
- Savings
- Clothing
- Medical care
- Dental care &
- Driver's Education

Students live in dormitories and are well supervised. Dorms for girls have a few nice touches, while the men's dorms are a little more utilitarian. The youth cooperatively share house-keeping chores and meet regularly in student government and dorm meetings.

When asked about complaints they talk about the food. However, at meal times they congregate peacefully at the dining hall and are served cafeteria style, a nutritious variety of foods which they quickly devour.

All centers have shops for the trades, and all materials and tools. They each learn at their individual rate. Unions teach several trades; namely the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiner of America teach carpentry. This is an avenue into an apprenticeship.

Education facilities are staffed with State Certified high school teachers. The program emphasizes obtaining GED's.

Here Is Your Choice Of Careers:

- Auto Body Repair ★ Auto Body Painting ★ Auto Mechanic
- Baking ★ Building Maintenance ★ Brick Masonry
- Cooking ★ Data Entry ★ Deck Hand
- Dental Assistant ★ Drafting ★ Electronic Assembly
- Forestry Aide ★ Geriatric Aide ★ Glazing
- Heavy Equipment Operator ★ Heavy Equipment Repair
- Home Health Aide ★ Landscape Gardener
- Nurse Assistant ★ Painting ★ Plastering ★ Printing
- Sign Painting ★ Tile Setting ★ TV Cable Installer
- Truck Driving ★ Ward Clerk ★ Warehousing
- Weatherization ★ Welding ★ Wood Processing



JOB CORPS APPLICATION & PLACEMENT AGENCY

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