

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## **GRO Summer Internship Final Report**

**Job Corps-GREEN**

**Diana Adebambo**

**Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA**

This summer I had the opportunity to work with a great group of ladies from the US EPA Region 4 Office of Pollution Prevention and Innovation (OPPI) in Atlanta, Georgia. My project advisors were the Pollution Prevention program manager Pamela Swingle and the Innovation Coordinator Latoya Miller. The title of my summer project was Job Corps- GREEN; GREEN is an acronym for *Growing Responsible Environmental Employees Now*.

The purpose of this project was to enhance the GREEN Curriculum that was developed by EPA's Region 1 by creating a supplemental component. To get started on my project I needed to familiarize myself with the Job Corps program and design by doing a basic Internet search. From there I was able to contact center directors and obtain a copy of the curriculum that I was interested in, Food Service/Culinary Arts trade and Business/Office Administration.

My Microsoft Office skills came in handy with this project! I was able to compile all of the information that I collected about the Job Corps Centers into a neat and easy to read spreadsheet. Once I was familiar with the organization, I was able to better understand how the GREEN Curriculum could help to enhance the curriculum already in place at the Job Corps centers.

The GREEN Curriculum was designed to give the Job Corps students the fundamentals of living sustainably and tactics to become an environmentally responsible person and employee. The curriculum is so basic that it can be applied to any trade offered at job corps, but our main focus will be the Food Service/Culinary Arts trade and the Business/Office Administration trade.

This supplemental component will give the instructors more information and resources that are focused on their specific course. The supplemental document and/or the G.R.E.E.N curriculum is intended to enhance the curriculum already in place at the Southeast Job Corps centers, not replace it.

The long term goal of this particular project is to aid in making the students at job corps more competitive in the job market, which reflects the green jobs/green economy sector of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Innovation. This project is currently in the preliminary stages; there is still additional work to be done before the project will be pitched to the Southeast Job Corps Centers. During my stay at the Region 4 office, I was able to overcome my slight fear of speaking in front of a crowd of people. My supervisor asked me, as well as her other interns, to attend a number of meetings where we had to introduce ourselves and sometimes even present different ideas to people. I really appreciate her doing that because I was able to force myself not to be so shy!

I've learned a number of things since I've been at Region 4, but the most important thing that I learned is that teamwork is the backbone of an office. There were many things that I worked on this summer that I don't think I could have accomplished if I were doing them by myself. My impression of the EPA's employees is that they are devoted to its mission to truly protect the environment as well as human health. I've met a number of true environmentalists this summer, whose interests have influenced me in a good way. They have helped me to realize that taking care of the environment can be fun! My interest in the environment has really grown while interning at Region 4. My career interests now include doing some type of outreach to

communities that could use training and education on how they can make their communities more sustainable. Overall I really enjoyed my experience with the EPA this summer.

My advice to next year's fellows would be to make sure that you network! Shake as many hands and obtain as many business cards as you can. Also, make sure that you have frequent communication with your supervisor (i.e., meetings, emails, notes) to insure that both of your needs and expectations are met.