



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

August 20, 2010

Great news! This week, we received a \$75,000 grant from JP Morgan Chase for our green jobs training program at the Young Adult Corps.

Celebrating 25 Years!

I was introduced to the LA Conservation Corps 13 years ago when I was a student at John Adams Middle School. It was one month before summer break in 1997 when a representative from the Clean and Green program came and presented during an auditorium session. The representative talked about her experience working in the program, what an average day looks like for a Clean and Green corpsmember, how challenging the work can be sometimes, and how it's a great opportunity for young students to gain work experience and earn some extra spending money. I was motivated by her warmth and enthusiasm towards the program and decided to apply. But it wasn't picking up trash or cleaning alleys that was challenging, it was waking up at 6am during my summer break that was hard. The Clean and Green program provided the foundation for my work ethics today; it taught me about team building, patience, following directions and working with others.

Many years later when I was a student at USC, I was again connected with the LA Conservation Corps, this time as the Executive Administrative Assistant working at the Mercado de la Paloma. My role eventually evolved to Scholarship Coordinator and finally to Development Associate. The Corps gave me the opportunity for professional growth while I attended university and even went as far as working with me on a part-time schedule while I was a student. Working with our young people in the Scholarship Program was a particularly special experience to me because I too came from similar backgrounds. The past five years at the Corps has been a fulfilling experience because I got to witness first-hand how much our Scholarship Program impacts these corpsmembers and students; enabling them to go to prestigious schools like UC Berkeley, UCLA, USC and the University of Chicago. What the Corps does for our young people is truly inspiring.

-Jian Huang, Development Associate
Clean & Green Corpsmember 1997

Today is Jian's last day at the Corps; she is moving on to pursue a career in art with the LA County Arts Commission.



Jian Huang with Russell Kantor scholars Crystal Dickens and Henry Ramirez

Young Adult Corps

This week our crews from Recycling Across Los Angeles (RACLA) continue to collect recyclable containers from Dodger Stadium. Remember to look for the greens among the blues!

Corpsmember Development

On Thursday, we honored and said goodbye to our latest group of Transition Program corpsmembers at a recognition ceremony at the South LA Center. This group of young men and one woman has accomplished many things while at the Corps and has contributed greatly to our organization and to the County and City of Los Angeles during their stay with the Corps.



From left to right: staff member Jasson Crocket with Alan Guevara, Jaime Ayala, Kevin Spears, Lenny Jones, Andres Padilla, Ernesto Aguilera and Ryan Plascencia

In attendance:

Ernesto Aguilera – Sierra College

Jaime Ayala – CSC Event Staff and in the interview and application process for F/T Work

Alan Guevara – in the application process for the Wildlands Recovery Team

Lenny Jones – Cypress College and deciding between 3 Job Offers – the Corps' After School Program, Educator at the Cabrillo Aquarium, or as a Transportation Security Officer with the Transportation Security Administration.

Andres Padilla – LA Trade Tech

Ryan Plascencia – Groundsman at Parsec

Kevin Spears – CSC Event Staff and in the interview and application process for F/T Work

Unable to attend:

Freddie Calderon – Santa Monica College

Elizabeth Grooman – Educator and Facility Staff, The Roundhouse

Luis Hernandez – In the interview and application process for F/T Work

Jose Solis – Assistant to a Contractor and LA Trade Tech