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For Immediate Release

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Blackwell Job Corps Center Students Help Rebuild Camino Real Ranger Station

Laona, WI – November 17, 2010

Students from Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center were able to participate in rebuilding the Camino Real Ranger Station in the Carsen National Forest. The project began on March 22, 2010 and entailed demolishing the old structure (approximately 2000 sq. ft.) and building a new energy efficient structure (approximately 6,500 sq. ft.) that well represents the Forest Service principles of sustainable operation.

Two groups of students were taken to the Camino Real Ranger Station for the rebuild, the first was led by Eric Martinson, carpentry instructor, in April of 2010 and the second was led by Bob Moore who is also a carpentry instructor at Blackwell JCCCC. Ten students accompanied the instructors for each trip to help with construction. Students and staff were able to stay at a hotel complex in Taos, New Mexico and traveled 25 minutes to the city of Penasco for the project. This project gave students and instructors a wonderful experience and allowed the students to



experience first hand what a work day will be like when they graduate the program. UBC Instructor Eric Martinson said of the project, "It (the project) gave the students a 'real life' job site situation to work on. When we arrived out there the project was a bit behind schedule. I told the students that when we left we would catch the job back up where it needed to be before we left. After many 12 hour days the project was back on schedule. It gave the students the opportunity to learn how to meet deadlines, work a full day without having the interruptions of clothing trips, medical appointments and many other things that would cause a student to not work a full day while on center."



This project demonstrated the ability of JCCCCs' "mobile corps" or strike teams to travel to remote locations and experience work-based learning in a real-time construction setting. Approximately 300 Job Corps students utilized their vocational skills to complete the project. Center vocations utilized on the project included: carpentry, construction craft laborers, block masonry, cement masonry, electrical, plumbing, painting, plastering, facility maintenance, landscaping, floor covering, heavy equipment operators, and tiling.

National Training Contractors (NTCs), including International Masonry Institute, International Union of Operating Engineers, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, National Plastering Industry's Joint Apprenticeship Trust Fund, United Brotherhood of Carpenters National Job Corps Training Fund, Inc., the Construction Craft Laborers, and Home Builders Institute, provided journeyman level instructors to supervise the student crews. Construction materials include energy efficient walls (SIP structurally integrated panels), lighting, water fixtures and traditional New Mexico architectural design. Job Corps students learned the art of ancient technologies such as vigas, latillas, portals, and plaster exteriors that are unique to southwestern construction design and which are highly energy efficient and green. The project involves working with local construction experts on installation of vigas and latillas supports which are unique to southwestern construction design. The project will expose students to Hispanic and Indian cultures of the southwest which will foster understanding and diversity.



The Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center is associated with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center serves 205 students. The USDA Forest Service operates 28 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers across 18 states with a capacity of 6,200 students.

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

The Blackwell Job Corps is the nation's oldest and largest residential job training program for economically disadvantaged youth. This program is free for eligible students and includes benefits such as career, technical, academic and life skills training, housing, and health care.

The Blackwell Job Corps Center is located in Laona, WI. For more information on the Center, please call (715)674-2311 or visit the website at <http://blackwell.jobcorps.gov>.