

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
**Labor & Workforce Development**  
NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

**Christie Administration Connects At-Risk Youth with Apprenticeship Opportunities**

*State Labor Department Highlights National Apprenticeship Week*

**HAMMONTON, N.J., November 16, 2016** – The Christie Administration today joined the New Jersey Carpenters Apprenticeship Training and Education Fund to educate at-risk youth enrolled in the New Jersey Youth Corps (NJYC) program on the history and importance of apprenticeship.

“We are very excited to be able to connect the Carpenters Apprenticeship Training and Education Fund and the New Jersey Youth Corps,” said Acting Commissioner Aaron R. Fichtner, Ph.D., of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. “This year, our department has invested more than \$5 million in Youth Corps programs throughout the state to engage young adults who have dropped out of high school through a program of full-time community service, training and educational activities to put them on a path of self-reliance.”

Today’s event featured a presentation on apprenticeship and a tour of the Carpenters’ training facility. This week, the state Department of Labor is participating in a series of events in recognition of the second annual National Apprenticeship Week. The registered apprenticeship system has been used for nearly 80 years to meet the needs of employers seeking a highly-skilled workforce and the needs of employees seeking a flexible training model that combines technical instruction with structured on-the-job learning experiences.

New Jersey Youth Corps was created in 1984 and serves young people from age 16 to 25 who have left high school before graduating. NJYC is one of the largest youth service and conservation corps in the United States. Youth Corps members work in teams to perform a variety of service projects. In return for their efforts, they receive education development in basic skills and preparation to obtain a GED or locally-issued adult high school diploma. They also receive instruction in life and employability skills, personal and career counseling to build self-esteem and develop leadership skills while developing a career portfolio, and continued support services during transitions to college, training, employment or other national and domestic services opportunities.

Ninety percent of NJYC members who successfully complete the program return to traditional high schools, enter the military, obtain direct job placement, enter an on-the-job training program, enter college, enter vocational training, or enter a full-time community service program. In fiscal year 2017, the department is funding Youth Corps sites in Atlantic, Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, Sussex, Union and Warren counties

More information on New Jersey Youth Corps is available [here](#).



Catherine Frugé Starghill, Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development (LWD); Bernard E. Treml, III, State Director, Office of Apprenticeship, United States Department of Labor; Ridgeley Hutchinson, Executive Director, New Jersey Carpenters Apprentice Training and Educational Fund; and Patricia Jordan, Grants Manager, LWD, pose with a proclamation from Governor Chris Christie recognizing November 14 through 18 as Registered Apprenticeship Week in New Jersey.



New Jersey Youth Corps participants learn about apprenticeship at the Thomas C. Ober Carpenters Training Center in Hammonton.