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What Penobscot Job Corps has given me.

All throughout high school I was pushed to go to college and choose a major. It may have been a rebellious act, or maybe I just didn't care to think about the future. Either way, I shrugged off all thoughts of the future. Living in the present just seemed to be an easier way to get through high school. I didn't really feel that I had many choices. College seemed an impossible hurdle, and I couldn't imagine that it would be easy to find a job in my small town of Winslow, Maine. It took everything falling apart to get me in the place I needed to be, Penobscot Job Corps.

Even before I started attending Penobscot Job Corps, I saw it as an opportunity that presented to me an enormous amount of choices. There were a few choices of vocations, plenty of Advanced Trainings, and the cherry on top of the ice-cream sundae, the A.C.T program. As my counselor, the A.C.T coordinator, and my vocational instructor can attest to, I changed my mind a lot trying to decide on a plan. The best part was that they were all very understanding and supportive of all my numerous plans, even though they teased me about all the changes.

I feel that the major reason behind my college terrors and avoidance in high school was a lack of confidence in myself and in my abilities. When I came to Job Corps and realized that I had so many choices, it gave me a confidence boost that I needed. I am positive that I can succeed in any plan that I choose. I feel like I can now accomplish my hopes and dreams, and when I am old and looking back on my life, I can be proud to say that I lived life the way I wanted.

Recently I've discovered through all my plan changes that I need to go with the flow and not over think or over plan my life. I am relearning what got me through high school. I am relearning that it's acceptable to sit by and live in the present as long as I have confidence in myself and have a good grasp of several paths I can take in life and what I have to do to succeed. I've also understand the differences between what I believed in high school and what I know now. Back in high school I wasn't prepared for anything, so sitting by and letting life work it out for me wasn't going to get me anywhere. If I am prepared, I don't have to work as hard or stress out over the little things.

Job Corps may not have completely revolutionized anything in my life, but some times a person just needs a kick in the rear and a few encouraging words to relearn or learn the things they should already know. I wanted better for my life than flipping burgers at Burger King or McDonalds. Job Corps told me that I was better than that. I never would have guessed that all it would take to get me back on track was someone showing me all the choices that were available to me in life, a boost in my confidence, and finally realizing that life doesn't have to be meticulously planned out, and you can succeed by following the flow of the everyday. I now have plans to attend Eastern Maine Community College in the Fall, I also have a tentative career path in mind that includes going to University of Maine after I complete at EMCC. Job Corps made the biggest difference.

Would I recommend Penobscot Job Corps to friends and family? In all honestly, I wouldn't. I know that my friends and family have what it takes to go to college. I didn't have anyone in my life to give me the kick down the right path like Job Corps did for me. My friends are luckier because they have me to show them that they can do anything they want in life and believe in then. I don't feel that my friends and family need Job Corps. I know they can go on to bigger and higher things by themselves.