

“I HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO HELPED ME”

Job Corps alumnus David Gillett works as a network administrator for the Moses Lake School District and says the help he received at the Columbia Basin Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center was “a big determining factor” to his current success.

Originally from Salem, David had been homeless before coming to the Center and enrolling in Job Corps’ Cisco program to learn the basics of computer networking and management. He quickly worked his way up to being first a room leader, then a dorm and trade leader.

“It’s pretty easy to prosper there,” David said. “I had a lot of people who helped me toward leadership roles.” He remembers especially the guidance of Job Corps instructors Johnny Lucas Jr. and Glen Brown.

While at the Center David became the first Job Corps student to intern with the Grant County courthouse, forging a partnership that still exists between the Center and the courthouse today. He said that while courthouse employees were a little wary of taking on an intern, his hard work set them at ease and that the experience became “a good step-in to a job.”

After graduation from the Center, David said he was apprehensive about being sent back to Salem. He applied for college courses at BBCC, where his tuition would be covered by Job Corps, and was accepted.

“I really lucked out with that,” David said, “because from there I was able to

get a job with the school district just two days out of college.”

Currently David configures networking gear, phone systems and the web filters for the school district.

“There’s just so much there for the size of the district,” David said. “You don’t realize coming in there are over 900 employees, each with their own email, each with their own phone and computer. It’s a lot to keep running.”

He is thankful for the training and support he received from Job Corps to reach this point.

“The overall opportunity has just been great,” David said. “It turned my life around. I believe it’s made me into a better person.”

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Columbia Basin Job Corps CCC

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