

“I’LL BE ABLE TO KEEP THIS TRADE FOREVER”

Carpentry student William McKhean came to the Columbia Basin Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center after struggling with the high costs of college.

“I’ve always strived to make myself better, but college was so expensive,” William said. “I crave to learn and I didn’t want to give that up.”

His sister had participated in Job Corps and recommended it to him as a less-costly alternative. William said that coming to the Center was a great decision.

“It’s so much fun. I’ve met people here from all around the world – from Ethiopia, Haiti, France. You can learn something new from everyone here,” William said.

He’s also embraced his Carpentry training as the path toward a lifelong dream.

“I can remember being 8 years old, stealing my dad’s tools to add on to the doghouse,” William said. “I’ve always had a passion for it (carpentry) and now I can get the training to achieve it.”

William is a crew chief in his trade, which means he is second in command to Job Corps staff.

He is responsible for making sure his fellow students wear their protective gear and for making groups decisions when the instructor is unavailable.

“Being in the shop is like being at home for me,” William said.

After graduation from the Center, William said he hopes to one day run his own home building business to put into practice the skills he has learned.

“It’s a cool thing that I’ll be able to keep this trade forever,” he said. “I can always do something with it, whether as a job or even on my own house someday.”

William said that his experience at Job Corps has been so positive that he is actively pushing friends and family to join as well.

“I’ve already gotten two from my hometown to join,” William said. “It’s a great thing to be able to go home and have everyone be so proud of you.”

JOB CORPS WORKS AND SO DO ITS GRADUATES ***84.3% OF GRADUATES ARE EMPLOYED OR IN COLLEGE***



William McKhean

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