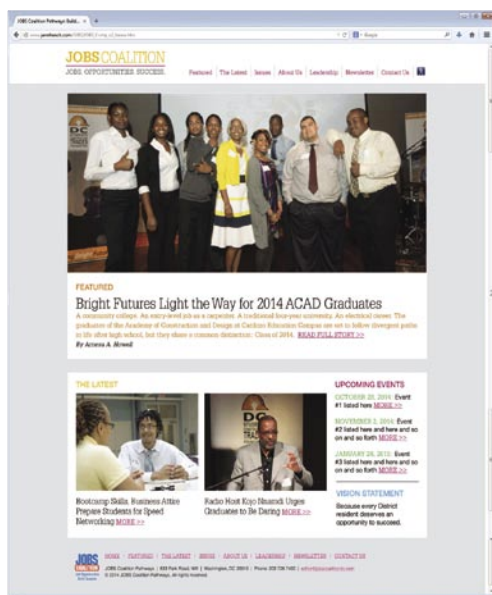


# JOBS COALITION PATHWAYS

BUILDING PATHWAYS OF PROMISES NOV/DEC 2014 VOLUME 12, ISSUE 6



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Don't miss out on receiving your next issue of *JOBS Coalition Pathways*. We are launching as an e-newsletter in January 2015 and want to make sure you continue to receive the latest news and updates. Please send your name and updated email address by **Jan. 10** to Pam Ellison at: pcellison222@verizon.net.

## MAKING STRIDES: JOBS COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS



While raising awareness of workforce challenges and potential barriers to employment, the JOBS Coalition and its members have combined their resources and industry expertise to achieve the following results:

- Built the Bellevue Resource Center, a program facility serving the hard-to-reach, hard-to-employ, and returning ex-offender populations. The Center was completed on September 30, 2003.
- Guided the creation of the Construction & Design Academy at Cardozo, providing District students access, training, and preparation for careers in the construction industry and trades after graduation. The Academy officially opened in September 2005. □



# THE BEST OF 2014: A YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2014, *JOBS Coalition Pathways* reflected on a year of triumphs in the aftermath of tragedy. After honoring the legacy of Marshall Janifer, a man dedicated to chiseling young minds for academic and employment success, the newsletter highlighted the accomplishments of graduates of the Academy of Construction and Design (ACAD) at Cardozo Education Campus and D.C. Apprenticeship Academy. And along the way, the newsletter also addressed issues of job and business development, the legalization and decriminalization of marijuana, and recidivism. Here, a look back through excerpts of the top stories of 2014:

By Arnesa A. Howell

### JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

Long dedicated to the success of his students, Marshall Janifer encouraged young people to succeed in the classroom and in their lives. As the lead carpentry instructor at the Cardozo Education Campus, Janifer taught students the skills of the trade and urged them to be stewards of their community. He always made time to help, even if that meant packing up a van and taking students without any means of transportation to college. Before his sudden death in January, Janifer served a key role at the Academy of Construction and Design, the program he helped launch in 2005.

**JERMAINE BROWN, CARPENTRY STUDENT AND 10TH GRADER, ACADEMY OF CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN**

**JOBS:** What is your fondest memory of Mr. Janifer?

**Brown:** When he had speeches about how I can be a good person.

**JOBS:** Is that something you found was unique for a teacher to do?

**Brown:** Yeah, I have experienced it [before] but I really think he meant it. Other teachers said it just to get you to do the right thing, but I think he meant it. Because every time I did something wrong, he'll tell me I shouldn't be doing that 'cause I can make something better of myself. Or, I look like a good person and I can succeed.

**JOBS:** What impact is that going to have on your life now?

**Brown:** I will try my hardest to succeed. I will succeed because he pushed me and made me succeed

Continued on page 4



Eric J. Jones



Rev. Stephen E. Tucker

### MARCH/APRIL 2014

With an initiative on the ballot to legalize marijuana in Washington, D.C., the newsletter addressed both sides of the issue ahead of the mid-term elections. In a series of editorials, two members of the JOBS Coalition weighed in on laws already on the books across the country, the impact on the District if residents approved legalization, and the difference between legalization and decriminalization.

*Eric J. Jones, associate director of government affairs for ABC of Metro Washington: In states such as Colorado and Washington, marijuana is now legal. There, marijuana is treated like alcohol instead of a narcotic. This means that an individual over the age of 21 has the ability to purchase limited amounts of the drug. While individuals aren't allowed to smoke marijuana in public places such as parks, pot shops or in vehicles, they are able to purchase and possess*

*up to 1 ounce of marijuana at any given time. As with alcohol, it is illegal for individuals under the age of 21 to possess or purchase marijuana in the state. In addition, a person is able to grow limited amounts of marijuana for personal use (the amount varies by state), as long as it is not grown for distribution. This is, however, different from the rules set in place under the new laws in the District and Maryland, which decriminalize marijuana.*

*The problem with the much-publicized decriminalization of marijuana in these jurisdictions is that it gives individuals false hope because marijuana remains illegal. Those most affected don't know the effective dates of the new laws and haven't been educated on the difference between legalization and decriminalization. Let's be clear: decriminalization simply changes the penalties for those found in possession of marijuana. Those found in possession of amounts above the decriminalization standards, or who are believed to be distributing the drug, will still face criminal charges and jail time. And there are still laws in place for the possession, consumption and distribution of marijuana in both the District and Maryland for those under the age of 21. This lack of clarity will ultimately have a negative impact on the same youth the laws are designed to protect. Young people's lack of information and knowledge will only make them more carefree when it comes to the possession and use of marijuana. This will hurt the youth of the region in years to come, destroying the lives of many in the process. – JOBS Coalition Pathways, AS MARIJUANA LAWS READY TO ROLL OUT, QUESTIONS ROLL IN*

*Rev. Stephen E. Tucker, president of the JOBS Coalition and Jobs Partnership Greater Washington, and senior pastor of New Commandment Baptist Church in Bowie, Md.: What we see here is danger "sneaking in the back door." The cumulative negative impact of marijuana use far outweighs any nominal benefit to those needing the drug for medical use. It is a drug that does more harm than good, and our young people will be the casualties. According to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, marijuana use "poses considerable danger to the health and safety of the users themselves, their families and our communities." As a member of the clergy for more than 30 years, I have seen up close the devastation showered upon entire families as a result of this drug. I have comforted parents and loved ones whose sons have been shot and killed by those under the influence or in the drug wars. Just as people will kill over cocaine, crack and heroin deals, they will also kill over marijuana deals gone awry.*

*For those who may call the clergy out of step with the times, remember that we have witnessed the collateral damage of drugs, alcohol and gambling within the communities we live and serve. We have warned of the dangers of alcohol (tally up the alcohol-related deaths) and other drugs (look at the number of drug-related incarcerations). Now, we are here warning of the dangers of legalizing pot.*

*Marijuana use will impact addicted individuals' employability. And perhaps, even worse, the drug will impact decision-making abilities in one's personal life and time on the job. – JOBS Coalition Pathways, MARIJUANA: SNEAKING IN THE BACK DOOR? □*



### MAY/JUNE 2014

2014 proved another inspiring year for the Academy of Construction and Design as it celebrated the graduation of its latest class during the annual Meet the Future Luncheon. While all the

graduates prepared to follow their dreams – whether college or career – some received special recognition for academic excellence and commitment to professional and personal growth. These student were honored with: Dreyfuss Scholarships, named after Norman Dreyfuss, executive vice president and chief operating officer of IDI Group; the Sigal Family Foundation Award, honoring a graduate of “good citizenship [and] competitive spirit” and named for GCS Inc. President Michael Sigal; and, the Bright Futures Bootcamp Award, given to select participants of the profes-

sional development bootcamp classes held at the Cardozo Education Campus.

#### **And the Award Goes to ...**

*This year's top honor for the Dreyfuss Scholarship Award – accompanied by a \$4,000 scholarship – went to Aunye Waller, 17, who plans to attend Delaware State University and pursue a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum to become a forensic scientist.*

*"It means a lot to me because I can use it towards my college tuition for school so that I can get my forensic science degree," said Waller after receiving the award.*

*Meanwhile, second place Dreyfuss Scholarship winner Treymane Chatman received a \$3,000 award. For Chatman, 17, the scholarship money will give a boost as he transitions directly into a carpentry career. "It will help me transport some of my tools because I can put a down payment on a car while I'm working," he shared.*

*The honor roll student, who along with classmates traveled to Jamaica to build an elementary school,*

*Continued on page 4*



## JULY/AUGUST 2014

They completed more than 576 hours of classroom training and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training to move one step closer to becoming licensed electricians. These are the graduates of the D.C. Apprenticeship Academy, a four-year program in which registered apprentices juggle school and workdays. In this issue, *JOBS Coalition Pathways* shared the stories of past and present graduates and their dreams for the future.

### Training for the Future

Tucked away in the Academy of Construction and Design within Cardozo Education Campus, this District-based training ground for registered apprentices has graduated 47 students since 2010. This year's graduates work full time in construction trades at companies including M.C. Dean, electrical services provider A. Wash and Associates, and Star Electric.

Vincent James Jr., an electrical level 4 apprentice with M.C. Dean, pointed out that the program's close proximity to his home contributed to his enrolling and ultimate success in achieving work-life balance. "It's a wonderful program," asserted James, adding that he was also impressed by the work done as part of the separate program teaching high school students skilled trades. — **JOBS Coalition Pathways, D.C. APPRENTICESHIP ACADEMY: PASS-PORT TO THE FUTURE**

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*For Anthony Ransom, the workdays started early when he was employed as an electrical apprentice for M.C. Dean. Oftentimes by 4 a.m., he was already driving the Beltway.*

*Now, the 2013 graduate of the program is sharing that passion with the next generation of registered electrical apprentices. In September 2013, just months after graduation, Ransom returned to the Apprenticeship Academy as an electrical instructor, the first graduate to do so. "I love electrical work ... just to be able to teach it, I get to give back," he says.*

*Running his classroom as an open forum, Ransom emphasizes hands-on learning and encourages students to ask questions and share ideas. He goes beyond the traditional "read the book and study" approach, taking instruction beyond the classroom walls. "I would have classes on the weekends where I would bring the students to the actual job sites so they could see the stuff we were talking about," says Ransom, who teaches Electrical Level 1. "We [also] had some in-class, hands-on experiences." Among those experiences — wiring panel simulations, role-playing exercises and trouble-shooting.*

*"I want them to fall in love with what they're doing," shares Ransom. — JOBS Coalition Pathways, ANTHONY RANSOM: A SUCCESS STORY Study Hard, Work Hard, Give Back* □



## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

A development known as the Capitol Crossing project is expected to revitalize a pocket of the city by bringing a mix of residential and retail space, accented by office space. The project will connect the District's East End and Capitol Hill, reviving the three blocks of I-395 from E Street to Massachusetts Avenue. The newsletter chatted one-on-one with Bob Braunohler, the regional vice president of Property Group Partners (PGP), the project's developer. And in a separate article, *JOBS Coalition Pathways* addressed issues of recidivism.

*This project will transform the landscape of downtown Washington, D.C. A departure from the current clusters of concrete buildings, the new look will feature sleek facades surrounded by pedestrian-friendly walkways. With the project impacting multiple wards, the company took steps to get community feedback.*

*"Wards 2 and 6 come together right on the freeway," Braunohler said with a chuckle. Therefore, PGP has maintained an open dialogue with Advisory Neighborhood Commissions in both wards, among others. "We go to the ANC [meetings] every few months. We're also meeting on a regular basis with condo associations that are up and down Massachusetts Avenue because we're impacting them as well," he said.*

### Stamps of Approval

*However, getting this development moving hasn't been without its hiccups. It's taken three mayoral administrations for the project to gain traction. Braunohler said PGP came on board in 2006 at the tail end of former Mayor Anthony Williams' administration. At the time, said Braunohler, the property was tied up in a lawsuit between developer Conrad Monts and the District. "He and the city were involved in a dispute over what the property was worth," he recalled. PGP proved instrumental in settling the lawsuit, gaining exclusive rights to buy the property at fair market value, Braunohler added.*

*He continued that a major challenge the company faced was reaching an agreement with the city on the deal structure because no one knew the cost of building over the highway. Ultimately, a deal*

*Continued on page 4*

**January/February 2014** Continued from page 1 in class and made me become a better person in school. He was my favorite teacher.

**JOBS:** What is something that is uniquely Janifer?

**Brown:** He made class fun. I used to like going to his class every day. Now, class is not the same without him. Every week we used to build something different, and it was fun.

**KRYSTAL BOONE, FORMER CARPENTRY STUDENT AND 2010 GRADUATE, CARDOZO ACADEMY OF CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN**

**JOBS:** What is your fondest memory of Mr. Janifer?

**Boone:** He cared. I liked not just how he interacted with me, but how he interacted with many other students. Many students come from broken homes

**September/October 2014** Continued from page 3 was struck to wait until the deck is finished and costs calculated to determine how much the air rights are worth. "We'll back into it after the fact," he said, "and that's what everybody agreed to, even Federal Highway [Administration]." All parties agreed to a formula where the more PGP spends on the deck, the less they have to pay for the air rights, Braunobler explained. – JOBS Coalition Pathways, [THE AIR UP THERE: CAPITOL CROSSING PROJECT TO BUILD JOBS, TAX REVENUE FOR DISTRICT](#)

and ... he was a father figure. He was that male role model. You don't have many positive male role models all-around – his whole life, his whole legacy, everything that he did and everything that he said was a representation of the man that he was and the men who came through the Academy.

He never talked about himself. Everybody talks about how he was honored last year and how if he knew he was going to be honored, he probably wouldn't have shown up. That's the type of man he was. He didn't do it for the praise, he didn't do it for the awards, the money, the certificates. He did it out of the kindness of his heart to do good things for good people, or even good things for bad people. Like they said at the funeral, you think of a man who was a teacher and a carpenter, and that was him. He pushed many of us to go to college to further our education. – JOBS Coalition Pathways, [REFLECTIONS](#) □

### **In the Numbers**

At the federal level alone, more than 45,000 inmates are released back into the community each year, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. And for many returning citizens – regardless of where they were incarcerated – the employment pipeline is clogged with challenges. Transportation, housing and education are all issues the formerly incarcerated face upon release. – JOBS Coalition Pathways, [CUTTING RECIDIVISM: DEVELOPING STRATEGIES THAT WORK](#) □

**May/June 2014** Continued from page 2 also took home the inaugural Sigal Family Foundation Award, bestowed with \$5,000 and a laptop.

Nicole Richbow, 17, rounded out the list of Dreyfuss scholarship winners. Richbow, who is graduating a year early to attend North Carolina A&T State University to pursue a career in health care, received a \$2,000 scholarship.

### **Leading the Way**

Two Cardozo students were also acknowledged for their "commitment" and "initiative" as participants in a special series of professional development bootcamp classes. The Career Fluency Bootcamp program aimed to help students prepare for life in the workplace by strengthening their interviewing, résumé writing, office etiquette, networking and other skills important for future success.

Emille Robinson, co-chair of the Career Fluency Bootcamp program, recognized Rodrigo Rosa, 18, with a \$250 Bright Futures Bootcamp Incentive Award, a nod to his "tremendous drive and commitment to grasp every opportunity we have given him to learn and improve." Meanwhile, fellow bootcamper and Class of 2014 ACAD graduate Chester Broadway, 18, got kudos for his "outstanding initiative" for traveling from Southeast Washington, D.C. to attend school and the Saturday bootcamps. – JOBS Coalition Pathways, [BRIGHT FUTURES LIGHT THE WAY FOR 2014 ACAD GRADUATES](#) □

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