

Working Together Works!

In September 2009, IUPAT Job Corps National Project Coordinator Andrew Larson was contacted by the United States Forest Service (USFS) about the possibility of students in our program participating in an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project in the Northwest. The Challenge Project in Plumas National Forest, near Oroville, California, called for rehabilitating four USFS buildings and required installing approximately 5,000 square feet of new carpet/vinyl; repainting a 9,000-sq.-ft. interior with patch and repair details; and refinishing 24,000 sq. ft. of exterior siding that called for pressure washing, the application of mildewcide/preservative and finishing with two coats of sealer using airless spray systems.

An ambitious project, to say the least, but the instructors and students from our floorcovering programs at the Collbran Job Corps Center in Colorado and San Diego Job Corps Center in California, along with our painting programs from the Wolf Creek and Angell Job Corps Centers in Oregon were all up to the challenge. Under the direction of their instructors, the IUPAT pre-apprentices descended on the project,



using their newly learned skills and methods, and got the job done in a professional, "UNION" manner that we all take pride in. "Working Together Works!" became their battle cry as they got the job done on time—in just under two weeks—and within budget. That feat earned them a stamp of approval from the powers above at the Forest Service and set the stage for future collaborations on other projects in the near future.



Job Corps Center pre-apprentices and instructors who recently completed a massive project for the United States Forest Service under the American Recovery and Reinforcement Act include (left to right), front row: Instructor Joseph Binion, San Diego JCC; Breanna Heinz, Collbran JCC; Nic Whitsell, Jesse Aparicio, Lexi Yarbrough, Kevin Evans, and Zach Sweet, Angell JCC; Joshua Gutierrez, San Diego JCC; Kyle Michaels, Angell JCC; middle row (kneeling left to right): Luke Zamora, Collbran JCC; Tyler Cole, Instructor Marti Fagin (standing), and Virginia Ruiz Iglesias, Wolf Creek JCC; and Mike Young and Billy Distle, Collbran JCC; back row (standing, left to right): Trent Thomas and Craig Garrett, Collbran JCC; Instructor Larry Provancha, Angell JCC Paint; IUPAT Job Corps National Project Coordinator Andrew Larson; Phillip Ingraham and Eleanor DeGeneff, Wolf Creek JCC; IUPAT Job Corps Field Coordinator Roland Haas; Dana Ishor, Wolf Creek JCC; Jose Garcia, Collbran JCC; and Andreas Escobedo and Chris Knight, San Diego JCC.