

This past February, the Omni Mount Washington Resort began a partnership with Job Corps Center in Manchester, NH.

Students and staff of the NH Job Corps were invited to the Omni Mount Washington for a tour where they were able to prepare their own lunch and enjoy smoothies alongside our team of culinary professionals. After their enthusiastic visit, which we now plan to make into an annual event, the NH Job Corps invited a representative from the Omni Mount Washington to attend their Job Fair and tour their facility. These tours served reciprocal benefits, introducing the students to the many hospitality and culinary opportunities available to them at the Mount Washington, while showing the Mount Washington the Job Corps' quality program and potential talent available to supplement our workforce.

As a result, the Bretton Woods Culinary Academy came to fruition, which consists of a 3-year apprenticeship in which up to 10 participants will be accepted each year. In partnership with White Mountains Community College, participants will also earn a culinary arts associate's degree after successfully completing the program.

The students participating in this program will be residing in Bretton Woods while working for the resort and attending college. In addition, some of their classes will be hands-on while working for the hotel.

We currently have three Job Corps students in our Culinary program and another working in our Food & Beverage department. We have found these students to have good work ethics, great attitudes, and a desire to learn. They are engaged and excelling.

Located in southern Coös County, the Omni Mount Washington draws employees from Coös County, as well as northern Grafton and Carrol Counties. With such a small population within commuting distance, recruitment and staffing up to 1200 employees during peak periods of business is difficult. Partnerships, like our new relationship with the NH Job Corps, is vital.

New Hampshire is also experiencing an aging population, due in part to our younger generation leaving for areas with more opportunities. NH Job Corps provides opportunities to New Hampshire youth who may not have otherwise had them, and helps to turn their lives around providing them with the potential to have careers while retaining them for the NH workforce.

The Omni Mount Washington Resort is a proactive employer. We are always improving our training programs to train and retain employees and help them to learn to become professionals in the hospitality industry, an industry which is crucial to the northern New Hampshire economy. We're also working with educational facilities at the college and high school levels to hire youth and provide them with career opportunities in New Hampshire.

Our new relationship with the NH Job Corps has been a successful supplement to our workforce and we look forward to a continued and growing partnership.