

STATEMENT OF TAMER KOHEIL

My name is Tamer Koheil, Center Director at the New Hampshire Job Corps Center located in Manchester, NH. The Center, which opened in 2015, is designed to serve 300 students at a time. The Center serves students from New England, primarily from New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. Participants are economically-disadvantaged youth between the ages of 16 and 24.

Job Corps is primarily a residential program. Students go through an admissions process prior to enrollment. Once in Job Corps, they live at the Center and receive academic, vocational and social skills training. The Center is open 24-hours a day, seven days a week. We have dormitories, recreational facilities and wellness support on our 30-acre campus. All of these services are free of charge to participants.

The New Hampshire Center is a career and technical education program that offers comprehensive hands-on training in nine of New Hampshire's most in-demand fields. Trade programs include Advanced Manufacturing, Electrical, Facilities Maintenance, Security Services, Culinary Arts, Hospitality Services, Medical Administrative Assistant, Clinical Medical Assistant, and Licensed Nursing Assistant. We also offer Advanced College Training programs in Computer Aided Design (CAD), Robotics, Registered Nursing, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Pharmacy Technician, and Cybersecurity. We have partnered with Manchester Community College, Nashua Community College, St. Joseph School of Nursing, and CVS to offer these programs.

All of our instructors have years of experience working in the field that they teach. Our students receive industry recognized credentials and certificates that give them a leg up in the job market and assure employers that our students have the skills they are looking for.

We accept students with or without high school diplomas, and we have several options for those students to earn high school equivalency credentials such as the HiSET (formerly GED) or the Penn Foster Online Diploma. We also offer Driver's Education to our students who do not yet have their licenses.

Based on my more than 10 years of Job Corps experience, I have identified 3 proven strategies that help us prepare our students for the New Hampshire workforce.

Employability and "Soft Skills" Development: In addition to academic and vocational skills training, we dedicate significant time and effort helping our students develop their "soft skills." Punctuality, being respectful, dressing appropriately; these are all vital components to successful employment. As a residential program, we conduct a number of employability skills development programs after the normal training day. Based on feedback from our business partners in the New Hampshire community we know how important cultivating these life skills can be.

Employer Involvement: Active employer involvement is essential. We work closely with a number of New Hampshire employers to determine their training and workforce needs. We conduct Workforce Council meetings to have employers review our curriculum, tour our training sites, meet with students to discuss career goals and provide input into the certifications and skills needed to be prepared for above entry-level jobs. For example some of the Employers that

currently work with the Center include Omni Resorts Mount Washington, Portsmouth Internal Medicine, Textiles Coated International and many others....

Work Based Learning: A key component of our training is off center work-based learning, commonly known as internships or work experiences. Typically, students spend 4-6 weeks at a job site to receive on the job training. It is our goal to work closely with the employer in order to transform these experiences into full-time employment upon completion of Job Corps. We recognize that not all students will be hired after their internship. But, it is a tremendous work experience and allows us to get employer feedback into how to strengthen the job readiness skills of our students.

Also, I would like to mention that as an entity we are all about supporting Small Business. We have spent in the past year or so more than \$1Million dollars on various goods to support our mission, all were purchased from local Small Business vendors.

Our program is for people that want to change their lives, they want to achieve their career and life goals. We give them marketable and highly sought skills so they can do that. In closing I would like to extend my thanks to Senator Shaheen and the entire New Hampshire congressional delegation for all her efforts in supporting the mission of New Hampshire Job Corps and for the opportunity to testify.