TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
    STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
    JOB CORPS REGIONAL DIRECTORS
    JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS

FROM: JANE OATES /s/
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SUBJECT: Release and Availability of Employment and Training Administration (ETA)
          Occasional Paper titled Analysis of Associations between Contemporaneous Job
          Corps Performance Measures and Impact Estimates from the National Job Corps
          Study

1. **Purpose.** To announce the release and availability of ETA Occasional Paper titled Analysis
   of Associations between Contemporaneous Job Corps Performance Measures and Impact
   Estimates from the National Job Corps Study.

2. **Background.** Job Corps is the nation’s primary residential training program for
   disadvantaged youth and annually serves over 60,000 young people ages 16-24 in over 100
   centers nationwide. Job Corps provides its students, the majority of whom do not have a high
   school diploma or GED when they enter the program, both academic and vocational training.

   Job Corps centers are assessed using a set of nationally established performance measures, which
   fall into three categories: program achievement, placement, and quality/compliance. The
   National Job Corps Study (NJCS) randomly assigned eligible young people in 1994-96 to
   treatment and control groups and found that Job Corps had positive impacts on student
   educational outcomes, employment and earnings, and desistance from lawbreaking. The study
   also found that higher-performing centers did not show higher impacts on their students than
   lower-performing centers.\(^1\) The researchers then suggested that adjusting performance
   measures for student characteristics may result in finding a correlation between the measures and center-
   level impact estimate

3. **Publication Description.** The current report explores possible associations between the
   official Job Corps performance measures, adjusted for participant characteristics, and impacts on
   student outcomes. To this end, the research team used NJCS data to estimate impacts on
   outcomes of interest for the individual centers. Then the researchers performed regressions of
   Job Corps center-level performance measures, both aggregate and component measures, on a set
   of student characteristics as well as characteristics of the local areas from which students came.

\(^1\) John Burghardt and Peter Z. Schochet, *National Job Corps Study: Impacts by Center Characteristics*, Research
Those regressions were used to create the “adjusted” performance measures, which the study’s authors then correlated with center-level impact estimates.

Key conclusions of the analysis are:

- Student and local area characteristics explain a substantial portion of the variation in center-level performance measures. Nonetheless, the adjusted and unadjusted measures are positively correlated.

- The finding that the higher-performing centers (when defined using the adjusted measures) did not show larger impacts on earnings, educational attainment, and criminal offending still held.

- The finding is robust to many alternative tests.

4. Inquiries. To view an abstract of this publication, as well as to download the executive summary and full report, visit the ETA Research Publications Web page at: http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm.