

Carl Colonius, *Executive Director*
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 Michael "Webster," *Field Program Coordinator*
 Vivian Martinez, *Education Program Coordinator*
 Casandra Romero, *Crew #6 Supervisor*
 Stacy Saldana, *Crew #5 Supervisor*
 Leesa Bloom, *Crew #8 Supervisor*
 Victoria Flores, *Learning Lab Supervisor*

White House honors our very own Carl Colonius as a "Champion of Change"

Washington, D.C.

Taos County resident Carl Colonius was honored at the White House on Friday, September 16 for Rocky Mountain Youth Corps' role in building and strengthening the future work force in the Southwest region.

The White House Champions of Change Initiative profiles Americans from all walks of life who are helping the country rise to the challenges of the 21st century. These Champions of Change are doing extraordinary things in their communities to innovate, educate and build a better America.

Carl was recognized RMYC's efforts to create opportunities for youth to participate in meaningful professional and personal development and transi-



Carl in D.C.

"I'm honored to be invited to our nation's capital to speak to the important work that RMYC is doing in New Mexico. Rural communities are extremely under-served, and the youth corps organizational model addresses multiple issues in a cost-effective, flexible manner." — CARL COLONIUS

tion into the workforce. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps works with youth ages 16 to 25 years old to revitalize communities, preserve and restore the environment, prepare young adults for responsible productive lives and build civic spirit through service. Carl met with White House officials to discuss his work and identify synergies that would aid RMYC's work.

Field crews complete successful summer season

In August, the 17th season of RMYC's New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps (NMYCC) came to a close. Each summer, RMYC employs additional crews with the support of the NMYCC and other partners such as the Bureau of Land Management, the City of Raton, City of Springer, Holy Cross Hospital, UNM-Taos, and the Carson National Forest-El Rito. This summer, several projects were successfully completed with the help of seven crews, each with an average of eight corpsmembers. The wonderful work these crews fulfilled consisted of: trail construction at Pilar, Wild Rivers, and Climax Canyon; landscaping and construction at UNM-Taos, Holy Cross Hospital,

(Left) Crew Supervisor Noah Bridgers operates tractor on the UNM-Klauer Campus Project. (Right) Shawnee Suazo of YCC Crew # 19, takes measurements for a tree monitoring project in the Carson National Forest near El Rito.

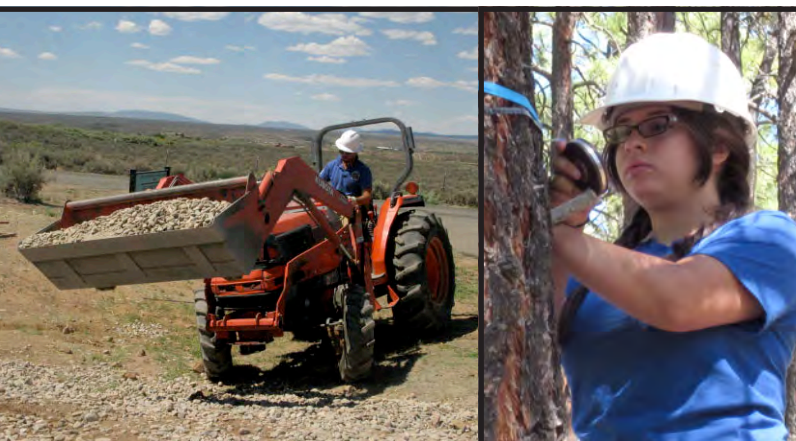


Crew #1 works on rehabilitation efforts of the Pacheco Fire near Santa Fe.

Raton Aquatic Center, Springer Memorial Park; and forest monitoring in the El Rito District of the Carson National Forest.

In addition to our YCC Crews, RMYC graduated three six-month AmeriCorps crews this past August. These crews partnered with agencies throughout the state and completed projects ranging from ATV trail construction, home weatherization, forest fire restoration and rehabilitation. 20 Corpsmembers signed up for a 900-hour AmeriCorps term of service with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and saw that commitment pays off. Members received project specific trainings such as S-212 chainsaw certifications and home energy audit experience, and several participants received college credit for their work with the Corps through a relationship with UNM-Taos.

All in all, the 2011 Spring and Summer Programs awarded \$312,504 in stipends and \$115,501 in Education Awards to over 77 graduating corpsmembers.



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Corps to serve over 60 after-school students this semester

RMYC's After School Tutoring and Mentoring (ASTM) Program began this year on September 12th at Enos Garcia, Questa, and Ranchos Elementary schools. Casandra Romero, Leesa Bloom, and Stacy Saldana are supervising 20 Corpsmembers who are in turn facilitating physical activities, enrichment sessions and offering homework support to over 60 students. RMYC provides a holistic approach to after school program-

ming and students receive individualized attention and support. ASTM is open to 125 elementary students, grades K-6, and is provided for a nominal fee of \$40 per semester (and \$10 for each sibling thereafter). This program is also made possible through support from the NM Department of Health, partnering schools, and the Corporation of National and Community Service.

RMYC is currently the only after-school mentoring program in the local public elementary schools. After-School Program crews provide a safe, structured environment for children in grades K-6.



CELEBRATIONS

July 2011

CREWMEMBERS OF THE MONTH

Angie Arellano & Dylan Lujan
Alyssa Sampson
Samantha Macias
Angel Martinez
John Ake
Sarah Valerio
Sean Sanchez
MaryAnne Alfaro
Williams Maestas
Maggie Honeyfield
Deangelo Trujillo

CORPSMEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Zion Ghahate

August 2011

CREWMEMBER OF THE MONTH

Sarah Martinez

CORPSMEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Derek Lujan

September 2011

CREWMEMBERS OF THE MONTH

Devin Duran
Danny Kaufman
Justin Gutierrez
Anna Vasquez
Daniel Gutierrez
Angelo Herrera
Pascual Maestas

CORPSMEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Drew Holsapple

More celebrations:

- **JC Lujan** married to Sarah Foster on September 3, 2011.
- **Tia Cozart** gave birth to a baby boy, Christopher Alonzo Cozart.
- **Adrianna Weickhardt** (Field Crewmember alumnus from '08) accepted a job as a Park Interpreter at Franklin Mountain State Park in Texas.
- **Jesse Shearer** (Field Crewmember alumnus from '10) received a year long internship with Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.
- **Jewleyah Atkins** spoke in front of a large community gathering during September's Walk for Nonviolence.

DONATE NOW >

www.youthcorps.org/donate

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps transforms our community through youth team service in the schools, landscapes and communities of northern New Mexico. Since 1995, thousands of youth ages 16-25 years old have changed their lives through the positive youth development services of RMYC. Your donation helps with vehicles, training, tools and support.

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps inspires young adults to make a difference in themselves and their communities. Through training and team service, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps is a stepping stone to new opportunities.