

Young Hoosiers Conservation Corps - A Success Story



Dion Davenport's trip to a WorkOne office in 2011 is working out just fine for INDOT in 2012. The mutually beneficial relationship may never have occurred if not for the Young Hoosiers Conservation Corps (YHCC).

Looking for employment during spring 2011, Davenport discovered the YHCC program through the Department of Workforce Development's WorkOne office. He was accepted into the program, which is geared for youth from low-income families and generally runs from May to October. While performing various road-related tasks, he left lasting impressions with his enthusiasm, professionalism and ability to learn quickly. On April 2, 2012, he earned a full-time position as a Highway Technician in Gary Subdistrict's Gary Unit 3.

"Working for INDOT is a great experience," said Davenport. "I like the variety of duties and the diverse group of people I work with and meet on the job. I am being trained on different machinery, most recently the sweeper truck."

When asked about a favorite duty, Davenport instantly responded: "I like to plow snow. Some of the routes I plow are roads that my family and my friends travel. It makes me feel good to know that I am helping those in my community safely get to work and other places."

"Dion has a positive attitude and a strong work ethic," said Gary Unit 3 Supervisor Robert Muir. "His enthusiasm to learn and to do his best is to be commended. He's a great employee."

Davenport credited his parents for these traits. "They had a positive attitude and always stressed to do your best, no matter what job you performed," he said.

Before working for INDOT, Davenport attended Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan where he also worked part time in the college bookstore and cafeteria.

"I definitely liked the bookstore better than the cafeteria job," he said. "At the bookstore, I was able to work on my people skills, interacting with students from different walks of life, which has helped me on the job at INDOT."

Davenport may return to the classroom someday, but right now he is focused on his work at INDOT. "I want to learn all the jobs I can, and learn about all aspects of INDOT."

For more information on the YHCC program, please contact Central Office Human Resources Director Angela Smith at asmith@indot.in.gov.