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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

(Neb.)-Job Corps Program To Celebrate 50 Years



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 02/17/2014 09:11 AM

(Chadron)-The Pine Ridge Job Corps is getting ready to celebrate 50 years, but the program itself is already celebrating. The local facility opened in 1965, but the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 established the Job Corps Program across the United States one year earlier.

According to an article in the Pine Ridge Job Corps newsletter, the Job Corps program was modeled on the Depression-Era Civilian Conservation Center program, which provided room, board and employment to millions of unemployed young people. The Job Corps program follows suit, providing a place for youth between the ages of 16 and 24.

The initial buildings of the Pine Ridge center were pre-manufactured homes that were joined together to form offices and residence halls for those at the center. At first, it was an all-male center which offered instruction on heavy equipment operation, carpentry, cement masonry, maintenance and auto mechanics. In 1984, the center became co-educational.

The present day facilities are much different than those in 1965, with new training facilities, dorms, administrative offices, and there are even many amenities including laundry, wellness center, activity center, a full-sized gymnasium and cafeteria, as well as a water tower for the center.

According to the article, the Pine Ridge facility has trained over 20,000 students since its inception in 1965.

(Information courtesy Pine Ridge Job Corps newsletter)