

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number 26-10-001-01-370, *Performance Audit of DEL-JEN, Incorporated Job Corps Centers* to the National Director, Office of Job Corps.

WHY READ THE REPORT

This report discusses weaknesses in addressing student safety and health and in performance reporting at the Gainesville Job Corps Center operated by DEL-JEN, Incorporated (DEL-JEN).

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

Our audit objectives were to answer the following questions:

1. Did DEL-JEN ensure compliance with Job Corps requirements for managing center safety programs?
2. Did DEL-JEN ensure compliance with Job Corps requirements for reporting performance?
3. Did DEL-JEN ensure compliance with Job Corps requirements for managing and reporting financial activity?

In addition, in response to two hotline complaints, we added a fourth objective:

4. Did the hotline complaints alleging improper management practices pertaining to staff hiring and firing decisions, student recreation funds, student government funds, student background checks and felon admissions, student medication used by staff, and center dental services provided to staff have merit?

Our audit work was conducted at DEL-JEN's corporate administrative office in Gardena, California; Gainesville Job Corps Center (Gainesville) in Gainesville, Florida; and the Albuquerque Job Corps Center (Albuquerque) in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to:

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2009/26-10-001-01-370.pdf>

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WHAT OIG FOUND

DEL-JEN did not ensure compliance with Job Corps requirements for safety inspections, safety committee meetings, and student misconduct. While at Gainesville, we observed multiple safety- and health-related deficiencies. We also found that Gainesville did not report significant incidents, such as physical assault, weapons possession, and narcotics possession to Job Corps as required.

Additionally, DEL-JEN did not ensure compliance with Job Corps requirements for reporting performance in each of the four areas we reviewed – Career Technical Training (CTT) completions, General Educational Development (GED)/High School Diploma (HSD) attainment, student Onboard Strength (OBS), and student accountability. Specifically, DEL-JEN did not ensure that students completed all of the CTT tasks as required by Job Corps, high school diplomas were documented in students' records as required, Gainesville maintained required support for leave days taken by students immediately prior to separation, or Gainesville accurately reported student participation in its off-center Work-Based Learning (WBL) program.

DEL-JEN generally ensured compliance with Job Corps requirements for managing and reporting financial activity.

Two of seven hotline complaint allegations had some merit. Those two allegations were (1) an Albuquerque manager inappropriately ordered student medications for personal use, and (2) an Albuquerque staff member inappropriately received dental services.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

In summary, we recommended the interim National Director, Office of Job Corps, direct DEL-JEN to improve corporate-level controls and monitoring over all its centers to identify and correct any non-compliance with Job Corps' safety and health program and performance requirements. We also recommended that the interim National Director assess liquidated damages against DEL-JEN related to the overstatement of OBS and CTT completions. The Job Corps interim National Director concurred with our recommendations and stated that Job Corps will work with DEL-JEN to improve controls over the Gainesville and Albuquerque Job Corps Centers. DEL-JEN agreed that it can improve its oversight of center operations, but disagreed with the number of CTT exceptions we identified and with our conclusion that OBS had been overstated at Gainesville.