



Jessica Garcia- Spirit of Service, Outstanding YouthBuild AmeriCorps Member of the Year

Jessica is just a few hours short of completing her 2nd AmeriCorps term (Quarter-time). She also served as an AmeriCorps member during the 2013-2014 program year, successfully completing a Reduced Half-time term. While serving in YouthBuild, Jessica has always embodied a great spirit and attitude. She once stated "I do community service because I enjoy giving back to my community not because I have to". She is always present at Saturday and Community Service events and works diligently with a smile on her face.

Jessica is an incredibly leader and motivator. Not only had she motivated fellow YouthBuild members but she has also taken it upon herself to lead by example. Often times, when we ask for volunteers (whether it's AmeriCorps related or not), Jessica will be one of the first to raise her hands and will encourage other members to volunteer. We often recall her saying statements like "come one, let's go together, it's only for a few hours". Due to this, we have seen many non-AmeriCorps members participate in community service, many of whom were encouraged to attend by Jessica.

Through Jessica's 2 years at CCEO YouthBuild staff has noticed tremendous personal and leadership growth. Jessica entered YouthBuild a very shy and timid person. She was reluctant to volunteer and kept to herself. She spent a lot of her time with her sister and was not as outspoken as she is now. Construction has taught her how to lead others and how to be driven to complete the task at hand. This program year, Jessica has exploded as a great leader at CCEO. She has continuously volunteered for AmeriCorps and non-AmeriCorps events before, during, and after school. Most recently, she was an active member in selecting and interviewing our Leadership Development and Mentoring Manager and was outspoken about having a staff member that understood the YouthBuild members.

-Nominated by Alexander Gil