

# Telamon—Virginia

August 2016

*Empowering Individuals, Improving Communities*

## Message from the State Director Sharon Saldarriaga

There are many new and exciting things to share this month. My retirement, planned for June 30th, didn't go quite as planned. However, that leads me to the first exciting news. A new State Director is scheduled to start August 1st. His name is Tom Grecco and he has an extensive background in New York as Division Administrator, Suffolk County Department of Social Services. After providing two weeks of orientation with him, I will then retire (really!) on August 15th. The next piece of news is that Department of Labor awarded us the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) grant. This was a competitive four-year grant. A major change for us is that Virginia will be overseeing the NFJP program in West Virginia so we are really excited about that.

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## A Bright Future

By Jane Bacilio  
Workforce Development Specialist II  
Moorefield, WV

Jaclyn Cleaver, a National Farmworker Jobs Program participant since March of 2015, has recently graduated from Potomac State College of West Virginia University with dual Associates Degrees: one in Animal Science and the other in Agriculture Resources. She was the recipient of multiple scholarships including the Promise Scholarship and the George's Poultry Scholarship. During her studies she completed an internship with Mountain View Veterinary followed by a second, and third internship at Farm Credit of the Virginias, where she is developing a starter loan program for people with no credit or bad credit who are junior farmers, minority farmers, veterans, and women entrepreneurs. Jaclyn has applied to West Virginia University and has been accepted. Her plans are to complete a dual bachelor's degree



in Animal Science and Agribusiness and Rural Development. Her career interest is marketing pharmaceutical supplies for agricultural purposes.

Jaclyn has worked with Workforce Development Specialist, Doris Fansler, to identify areas of interest while the NFJP provides support to assist Jaclyn achieve her goals. Jaclyn has lived on a farm her entire life and has a great love and respect for animals and the lifestyle that goes along with tending to livestock. Her work on chicken farms earned her the eligibility to enter the NFJP program and begin the path to success.

Jaclyn's involvement in local agriculture is impressive. She is the Vice President of the Potomac State 4H, she is a member of the

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# Farmworker Children Attend 4-H Jr. Camp

By Sara Lopez  
Workforce Development Specialist II  
Montross, VA



We would like to extend many thanks once again to the Theodore H. Barth Foundation, Inc. for providing Telamon Corporation the chance to receive funding to provide farmworker youth the opportunity to participate in cultural enrichment activities.

This summer, the Telamon office in Montross, Virginia was able to send farmworker children

ages 9-13 to 4-H Jr. Camp. Camp was held at the Jamestown 4-H Center in Williamsburg and lasted five days and four nights.

The purpose of the 4-H program is to assist with the positive development of youth. The program has standards such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

The young adults participated in activities such as canoeing, fishing, eco-exploration, financial literacy talks, guitar lessons, kayaking, painting, robotics, and much more.

The day of their return, I received calls from each letting us know how thankful they were for the opportunity to attend camp and how much fun they had!

## Freddy's Dream

By Magaly Quinones Guzman  
Workforce Development Specialist II,  
Harrisonburg, VA

Freddy is a 45-year-old Hispanic man who came from Puerto Rico to search for a better quality of life in the United States. He used to be a farmworker in Shenandoah Growers packing fresh herbs, and this is how he became a participant with Telamon.

Freddy has mentioned how opening an auto mechanic shop has been his dream since he was a kid. His father used to teach him to fix cars. Since he became a participant with Telamon, we have been helping him receive the necessary training to open his business. We guided him and provided him the



tools and skills to be a successful man with the help of workshops like “The Entrepreneurial Training Plan” and “Financial Literacy”

classroom training. Also, he successfully passed ESOL classes at James Madison University and created with Telamon staff his professional business plan. We are so happy to see Freddy succeed in overcoming adversity and obstacles. He is a great example for the Harrisonburg community.

## State Director's Message

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Finally, the last news is that beginning July 1, 2016, administrative oversight of our housing programs will fall to the Director of Housing, Brandon Bell, in our corporate office.

Since this truly is my last column, again I want to thank all our partners throughout Virginia who have supported me and the work of Telamon in helping to create better lives for disadvantaged individuals and their families. And to all my Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) colleagues, much thanks and gratitude for your support and many years of service to farmworkers throughout the nation. And last but not least, I owe a debt of gratitude to my staff and staff at the corporate office, who have supported my work. I will miss you all.

## Staff Notes

With the beginning of a new program year, there have been many staff and organizational changes, some of which were noted in the State Director's Message.

**Tom Grecco** will be Virginia's new State Director. His first day with Telamon is **August 1, 2016**.

**Sharon Saldarriaga** is Virginia's outgoing State Director. Her last

day is **August 15, 2016**.

**Brandon Bell** is the corporate Housing Director and is directly managing Virginia housing programs effective **July 1, 2016**. In that capacity, he is managing two Virginia offices: VA08 in South Hill, and VA10 in Danville.

**West Virginia/ Virginia NFJP** program merge. Effective **July 1,**

the NFJP offices in West Virginia and Virginia will both be managed by Program Coordinator **Nelson Diaz**.

**West Virginia office WV07.** A new NFJP office is opening in Moorefield, WV. The new location should be open for services in early **August**. For assistance, contact location supervisor **Jane Bacilio** at (304) 433-5966.

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WV Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's Association, and a member of the Potomac State Agriculture and Forestry club. She has received a scholarship for being named the 2015 Tri-County Fair queen, and was also named the WV Department of Agriculture's 2015 West Virginia's Beef Queen. She represented Potomac State College at the 1st Annual West Virginia Agricultural Innovation Showcase in



October of 2015. Additionally, Miss Cleaver was mentioned in an article published by the West Virginia Executive Magazine showcasing the innovative programs offered by Potomac State.



Jaclyn's future sure looks bright. Telamon is very proud to have been instrumental in providing support to Jaclyn in her successes and looks forward to working with her in the future. Congratulations Jaclyn!

## Virginia Housing Program News

By Tytiana Dennis  
Housing Program Coordinator  
Danville, VA

### Networking

Housing Program Coordinator Tytiana Dennis received an invitation to luncheon with Governor Terry McAuliffe hosted by Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) in Richmond. Governor McAuliffe declared June as Homeownership Month. Governor McAuliffe as well as other officials spoke. The most moving speech was given by a recent homeowner. She spoke of her dream of a home for her and her son. She talked about how nervous and excited she was when she officially purchased her first home.



Tytiana Dennis was also invited to speak with Anita Royston of WKBY Radio on her talk show "The Viewpoint." Tytiana spoke about all the great housing programs Telamon Corporation of-

fers. The radio show aired twice on Saturday July 2, 2016.

Tytiana was invited to participate in a Back to School event July 30th where she hosted two classes: a Youth Money Matters and Financial Literacy for adults. She also spoke at Negril Academy to groups of students and parents on July 29th.

### Default

Mr. H. came to Telamon with a mortgage of \$1107 he was unable to handle. We applied for a loan modification and received a \$826.23 payment which was still not feasible based on his income. Telamon Housing Program Coordinator worked the case, and with a little luck and a great loan representative we were able to get his mortgage payment to \$465!!! To say he and I are ecstatic is an understatement.

### Housing

The lease-purchase program in Danville is progressing smoothly. We currently have 2 of the 5 homes at the bank ready to purchase. This is a great program that allows clients who are not purchase-ready the opportunity to live in the home as they work with Telamon to build or establish sufficient credit.