

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Constructing a Life's Purpose

Victoria is a determined and visionary young woman whose journey through the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) Program has been filled with growth, grit, and grace. She has a clear dream of becoming an architect and takes on every opportunity with focus and courage. Her story is a powerful reminder of what perseverance can do, how confidence can be built, and how leadership is often about helping others rise with you.

On March 11, 2024, Victoria began her paid work experience as an Office Administrative Assistant. During that time, she showed strong organizational skills, excellent communication, and an ability to adapt quickly to professional environments. By the time she completed her role on June 30, 2024, she had gained valuable experience that she now carries with her. Afterward, she enrolled in the carpentry trade program at Job Corps, where she continues to build hands-on skills that bring her closer to her future in architecture.

Victoria's leadership has really started to shine. During both Leadership Day and Legislative Day, she stepped into her voice with confidence and intention. She offered ideas, encouraged her peers, and showed that leadership doesn't have to be loud to be effective. Victoria leads with quiet strength, and her presence has a way of building trust and unity. She wears her emotions like armor, and instead of seeing them as weaknesses, she uses them to fuel her resilience and connect with others on a deeper level.

Along the way, she's grown in confidence and learned to trust herself more. Her JMG Specialist, Dominque, has been a steady support, always encouraging her to stay focused and keep believing in her goals. That support helped her realize the strength she already had within.

Victoria says, *"Leadership isn't about being in charge, it's about showing up, learning to believe in yourself, and using that confidence to lift others. I've learned that the more I grow, the more I can help others grow with me."*

As of May 21, 2025, Victoria started working at Turner Brooks as a 1st Year Carpenter Apprentice, earning a very competitive wage, working 40 hours per week with full benefits. She is now applying her skills in real-world settings while continuing to grow personally and professionally. With every beam she raises, every peer she encourages, and every goal she reaches, Victoria is not just building her future, she's creating a legacy rooted in confidence, compassion, and community welfare.