

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

Subject: eBlast from NRCS



November 16, 2007

WYNEA BUFORD MENTORS SCEP STUDENT

Frank Jones, a SCEP student from Tennessee State University, had the opportunity to continue his exposure to NRCS in the Price Field Office this past summer. Wynea Buford, soil conservationist and Black Emphasis Manager for the Utah Civil Rights Advisory Committee, had the opportunity to mentor Frank during his Utah stay (see the accompanying photo of the two). She reported her experience in the electronic newsletter of the National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees, where she serves on the Scholarship and Budget Committee.



Wynea made some of the following comments in her report: Frank is a very bright student who plans to become a soil conservationist when he graduates this fall. Through his experience in Iowa and this summer in Utah, I believe he has shown his mobility and willingness to learn conservation in different areas. I encouraged Mr. Jones to continue going to new areas to enhance his knowledge and awareness of different types of conservation practices.

I asked Frank to describe his time in Utah. He stated, "My experiences in Utah have taught me a whole new type of conservation. Conservation

practices are much different here in Utah compared to Iowa where I was a soil conservationist trainee. In Iowa I basically learned about terraces. I never thought I would go to a place where they have irrigation problems. In Utah they basically have Salinity problems and Irrigation problems; coming to Utah has made me more diverse. I feel that learning different types of conservation practices will not only help me in my career, but also in life. Meeting/networking with people by traveling to different parts of the country helps a person to discover who they really are. Mrs. Buford taught me to become well-rounded."

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