



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

PHOTO CAPTION / PRESS RELEASE

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**CONGRESSMAN TIERNEY MEETS WITH LOCAL TEENS
HIRED FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT AT NATIONAL PARKS
IN SALEM AND SAUGUS**

(Monday, August 23, 2010) – Congressman John F. Tierney (D-MA) saw federal Recovery Act dollars at work in Massachusetts when he met with area teens involved in a paid summer employment program. A collaborative effort among three key entities, the Essex National Heritage Commission, the National Park Service, and the North Shore Workforce Investment Board (NSWIB), the F1rstJobs program, provides much needed employment to North Shore teens, while facilitating opportunities to connect underserved youth to the rich cultural, historic and natural resources within Essex County.



Photo #1: Congressman Tierney is pictured here with (left to right) Jonathan Morel, 17, and Manny Cruz, 18, both from Salem. Both are former F1rstJobs youth who are employed this summer in the National Park Foundation's America's Best Jobs program at Salem Maritime National Historic Site.



Photo #2: Congressman Tierney also watched F1rstJobs youth demonstrate gold leaf application to Orientation Center signage. The youth employees pictured clockwise starting at top left are: Tylynn Spraglin, 17, Salem; Autumn Chandler, 16, Salem; Reggie Kendrick, 15, Salem; Ethan Dexter, 20, Swampscott; Patrick Scanlon, 15, Salem; and Jeremy Swindiuch, 15, Marblehead.

Other projects the F1rstJobs youth are conducting this summer include restoring an 18th century style garden according to the original garden plan; painting the historic Narbonne House; doing maintenance on the park's tall ship *Friendship of Salem*; scanning archival photographs; conducting visitor surveys; and more.

“This collaboration between Essex Heritage, the National Park Service, and the North Shore Workforce Investment Board is a boon to our community, our economy, and the local teens looking to gain work experience,” Congressman John Tierney said. *“The program is making a real difference in setting our young people on the right path to long-term success. I thoroughly enjoyed sitting down with them and hearing their personal stories.”*

More than 20 work positions through F1rstJobs have been made available to North Shore youth at the Salem Maritime and Saugus Iron Works Historic Sites this summer. "Providing high quality work experience is our priority. The positions provide opportunities for youth to learn job, leadership and life skills under the direction and supervision of our highly skilled staff," stated Patricia S. Trap, Superintendent of both the Salem National Historic Site and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site. This program was piloted last summer with 10 teens who had a wide range of experiences, from learning how to gold leaf the Customs House sign to greeting visitors at the National Park Service's Regional Visitor Center in Salem.

Essex Heritage provided the interface between the National Park Service and the F1rstJobs program by hiring the teens on behalf of the National Park Service. "These summer jobs provide hands-on work experiences for city kids at a time when employment opportunities for this age group are very scarce," said Essex National Heritage Commission Executive Director Annie Harris. "We are very pleased that our special partnership relationship with the National Park Service enables us to make this happen." Essex Heritage has more than a decade of experience building collaborative public-private partnerships to support quality of life programs in Essex County. Harris added that, "We are also very grateful to the Eastern Bank Charitable Fund which is providing an additional grant to cover a gap in the public funding."

"We are impressed with the quality of the work and learning experiences offered to youth through Essex Heritage and the National Park Service," said Mary Sarris, Executive Director of North Shore Workforce Investment Board. "It is uncommon for youth to get jobs with the federal government and this is a unique partnership between the Department of Labor and the Department of the Interior. It has been made possible through the efforts of local organizations identifying a need and reaching out to creatively address the important issue of jobs fulfillment."

The National Park Service has made youth engagement and employment an important national priority. "This exciting and innovative job program helps connect young Americans with their National Parks and National Heritage Areas. More importantly, the program extends the National Park Service ethic—our shared responsibility to become stewards of our natural environment and

our communities' heritage resources—beyond park boundaries,” added Superintendent Patricia S. Trap.

For additional information, please visit essexheritage.org and [nps.gov.sama](http://nps.gov/sama).



About the Essex National Heritage Area and Essex Heritage

Designated by the US Congress in recognition of the important role that this region played in American history and its significant heritage sites still remaining, the Essex National Heritage Area is comprised of the 34 communities of Essex County, MA. Essex Heritage is a non profit agency that manages the Heritage Area, and works in collaboration with the National Park Service to promote public/private partnerships, and develop programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness of the Area's unique historic, cultural and natural resources. For more information, visit Essex Heritage at www.essexheritage.org or call (978) 740-0444.



About Salem Maritime National Historic Site

Salem Maritime National Historic Site was designated in 1937, the first National Historic Site in the National Park Service system. The nine acre site includes the homes of merchants and mariners, the Salem Custom House in which the famous author Nathaniel Hawthorne worked, and a replica of the three-masted cargo vessel *Friendship*. Today, the rangers and volunteers of Salem Maritime NHS continue to inform and inspire visitors with the maritime history of New England and the United States. For more information, visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/sama or call 978-740-1650.