

October 23, 2013

Note from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – Cycle 9, Session 8 (session 96)

Topics: Current Happenings / Updates from Washington as of October 23, 2013  
Nye County & NyE Communities Coalition, Nevada  
Opportunities—The GreatEST Institute—Act ASAP—Fills quickly

### **Current Happenings / Updates from Washington as of October 23, 2013**

With the government reopening, it is time to get in touch with your Regional Coordinator.

REMINDER: Keep current on progress reports and ACRES reporting.

Requests for Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training proposals may be delayed as a result of the government closure. December/January may be more a more realistic timeframe. We will keep you informed. Those interested in submitting or resubmitting proposals need to begin planning now. Partnership development requires longer lead times than proposal development. Use last year's RFP as a guide, giving special attention to partnership and community development.

### **Nye County & NyE Communities Coalition, Nevada**

Amy Fanning, Nye County, Nevada; and Tim Wigchers, NyE Communities Coalition.  
Thank you, Amy and Tim, for your presentation.

Nye County, Nevada received its first grant award in 2008 and received additional funding in 2012. Nye County and NyE Communities Coalition, as grant recipient partners, deliver a comprehensive, county-wide environmental job training program.

Perhaps the most difficult workforce development programs are those located in Tribal and rural areas. Nye County provides an example of an excellent program working in a diverse rural community.

Below is an overview of the Nye County environmental workforce development and job training program.

### **Targeted Community**

Nye County is the third largest county (18,150 square miles—200 miles north to south) in the contiguous U.S. with only 44,000 people. It is located in southern Nevada about 60 miles from Las Vegas. Yucca Mountain and the test site are located in Nye County, as are numerous ghost towns, gold mines, and national historic and protected areas. As much as 97 percent of the county's land is federally controlled. Median family incomes in Pahrump are more than \$10,000 below the national average, and methamphetamine production is a growing local concern.

This rural and disbursed community first received a Brownfields assessment grant in 2002, with five additional grants to assess and remediate 25 polluted sites. Potential employers include mining operations, fuel handling, power generation, bio medical facilities, water/wastewater, and waste management facilities. The NyE Communities Coalition training center is located in Pahrump, NV (centrally located and a major county hub). Participants of the program include:

- Unemployed or severely under-employed residents of Nevada
- Displaced workers

- Ex-offenders
- Veterans

#### Training Objectives

- Three cohorts. The first cohort in September graduated 22 participants.
- Three cycles include a day session, an evening and Saturday session, and a third session which begins in January.

#### Core Training Program

- NyE Communities Coalition provides 157 hours of training. The curriculum was developed from guidance and discussions with potential employers and includes:
  - 40-hour HAZWOPER
  - MSHA Part 48 (mine safety)
  - OSHA 10-hour Construction
  - OSHA Confined Space Entry
  - Asbestos Abatement
  - Lead-Based Paint Abatement
  - CPR/First Aid/AED
  - Fire Safety
  - Bloodborne Pathogens
  - General Hazardous Materials Awareness
  - Numerous workforce readiness classes

#### Training Delivery and Curriculum

Training delivery and curriculum must be tailored to a diverse student population. Unlike larger communities with many applicants who are filtered to a select group, rural programs recruit and train with less selectivity and filtering. Some students may not have been in a classroom for many years. Work and study skills may be limited. Training delivery accommodates day classes as well as evening and Saturday classes. Instructors must accommodate a large diversity in experience, life skills, and learning abilities.

#### Student Services, Retention, and Placement

NyE Communities Coalition is an established community organization whose goal is building healthy communities across Nye and Esmeralda Counties. The coalition is made up of individuals, organizations, and agencies that are focused on joining together in cooperative and collaborative efforts to increase prevention services and opportunities.

With multiple partner organizations, Nye County can bring all available social and financial services to qualified applicants. Students are able to qualify for benefits including gas and transportation reimbursement as well as other traditional support.

#### Student Recruitment

NyE Communities Coalition recruits county-wide unemployed and disadvantaged residents. (The Coalition is an established organization providing support and training for a wide variety of occupations with an emphasis on prevention and support.) The recruitment process procedure includes:

- Orientation day—general introduction to program.
- Interviews—clear understand of commitment and determination.
- Must be 18 years of age.
- A resume is requested.
- Must be a Nevada resident.
- Must have high school diploma or high school equivalency certification.
- Drug-free—mandatory drug testing
- Physically able to participate in training.
- Must commit to attending every hour of every class.
- Final panel selection of candidates.
- Ex-offenders accepted.

#### Job Placement

On the second Friday of each month, NyE Communities Coalition hosts a monthly Job Fair. Fair days allow participants to meet with employers and explore career opportunities. Environmental workforce and job training grantees have a special sticker identifying them as potential candidates for environmental jobs.

#### Key partners

NyE Communities Coalition, by its nature, is a coalition of all community groups in Nye County, Nevada. As such, there is a close relationship with civic, governmental, educational, and religious organizations. NyE Communities Coalition works closely with the Workforce Investment Board, insuring benefits to all who qualify.

#### Contact and additional information

Tim has provided newsletters, class schedules, and a recruitment flyer. If you would like a copy, email Mike Senew at [msenew@aol.com](mailto:msenew@aol.com).

Amy and Tim would be happy to discuss their program and issues associated with working in rural communities.

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## **Opportunities**

### The GreatEST Institute—Act ASAP—Fills quickly

The Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE) is accepting applications for enrollment in the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST). Annually, nineteen instructors are accepted to attend a no-cost, ten-day Great Environmental Safety Training (GreatEST) Institute that provides standards, curriculum, and hands-on methods for delivering Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training. Your participation in the GreatEST Institute will provide you with:

- An annual CCCHST trainer certificate.
- A license to use and duplicate CCCHST curriculum.
- CCCHST technical assistance.
- CCCHST instructor support materials.
- National marketing for your program.

The GreatEST Institute will be held at Eastern Iowa Community College District, Davenport, Iowa, on June 2-13, 2014. To apply, please contact Patti Thompson at [pattijthompson@gmail.com](mailto:pattijthompson@gmail.com).

### National Worker Safety and Health Conference

The National Worker Safety and Health Conference will be held December 10-12, 2013 near Baltimore, MD. Conference registration is now open at <http://www.coshnetwork.org/2013Conference>. This page has information about conference logistics, how to register, and how to book accommodations.

The National COSH will be holding its third annual National Worker Safety and Health Conference at the Maritime Institute outside of Baltimore, MD, on December 11-12, 2013. The conference will include:

- Approximately 40 different workshops on a wide range of topics including legal rights under OSHA, how to organize successful worker safety and health campaigns in the workplace and in the community, policy advocacy strategies and methods, effectively reaching and working with immigrant workers, workplace violence, chemical hazards, and many other technical training topics.
- Several panels including some of the leading figures in workplace safety and health around the country.
- Several workshops on a variety of topics in Spanish; English/Spanish interpretation in all plenary sessions.
- Inspiring keynote speakers (to be announced).
- A pre-conference plenary panel on Tuesday evening, Dec. 10.
- An awards banquet and program on Wednesday evening, Dec. 11.

### 2014 Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference

February 10-11, 2014

Washington, D.C. at the Washington Hilton Hotel

For additional information, please visit [www.greenjobsconference.org/](http://www.greenjobsconference.org/).

### Urban Waters Small Grants

<http://www2.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is inviting proposals for its Urban Waters Small Grants. Programs that improve water quality while supporting community revitalization and other local priorities can apply to fund research, investigations, experiments, training, surveys, studies, and

demonstrations. Find out if your geographic region is eligible here. Apply by November 25th for grants of up to \$60,000.

### Florida Brownfields Conference 2013

October 27–30, 2013

The Florida Brownfields Conference is a unique event that brings together the many interests of a diverse group which includes a broad range of Brownfield stakeholders—from property owners to developers; local, state, and federal agency representatives; environmental professionals; land planners; community leaders; legal experts; financial and insurance industry representatives; and grassroots citizens who are deeply affected by and involved in the cleanup, redevelopment, and restoration of Florida's Brownfield sites. For more information, visit <http://www.floridabrownfields.org/displayconvention.cfm>.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Next PLC Session:        November 6, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at [msenew@aol.com](mailto:msenew@aol.com).

Visit our *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs. All PLC session notes and recordings are also located on the *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-corner/>.