

CONNECT News

Community Support, Networking, and Assistance for Environmental Career Training

September 2016

The Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) provides technical assistance to communities interested in developing and delivering environmental job training programs. HMTRI also provides technical support to Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grantees funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These efforts are made possible with a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA.

HMTRI is part of Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and has provided environmental workforce development technical assistance since the inception of EPA's Brownfields Initiative.

In this issue of *CONNECT News*, we will summarize the recent *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* held August 17–18, 2016, in Alexandria, VA.

ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOB DEVELOPMENT ALL-GRANTEE MEETING

The *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* provides a unique opportunity for EWDJT grantees to share a variety of approaches to job training and development with each other, prospective EWDJT grantees, and EPA regional and headquarters representatives. This two-day meeting is held in the late summer or early fall in the Washington, DC area, which enables participation by EPA headquarters representatives.

This year's meeting, held August 17–18, was attended by 116 participants representing:

- 74 participants from 45 EWDJT programs
- 6 prospective EWDJT grantees
- 13 EPA headquarters participants
- 14 EPA regional participants
- 5 HMTRI participants
- 1 NIEHS participants
- 3 LinTech Global participants

THE AGENDA—EPA PARTICIPATION

The meeting began with a welcome and meeting overview by HMTRI followed by brief introductions by all attendees. Gail Cooper, Deputy Director of the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization, presented updates and information from EPA Headquarters.

At least one representative from each of the ten EPA regions were in attendance. The regional coordinators had the opportunity to meet with all grantees and prospective grantees from their own regions in separate regional meetings.

Several other EPA offices gave presentations in concurrent sessions on how their office connects with and contributes to the EWDJT program. The offices who presented at this year's meeting included:

- Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation
- Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention: Integrated Pest Management

- Office of Environmental Justice: Integrating the Use of EPA's EJ SCREEN Tool
- Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention: Lead-Based Paint Program
- Office of Urban Waters
- Office of Environmental Justice: Telling Your Story
- Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization: Resources
- Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization: ACRES Training
- Office of Grants and Debarment: Legal and Administrative Issues

Many of the EPA offices used a PowerPoint and shared other resources in their presentations. Their PowerPoints and resources are available on the [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website.

THE AGENDA—OSHA MINI-COURSES

OSHA mini-courses were held for trainers, curriculum developers, or anyone who needed an understanding of the OSHA training required by EWDJT cooperative agreements. The mini-courses included:

- HAZWOPER Standard
- Hazards of the Waste Site
- Confined Space for HAZWOPER
- Lead, Asbestos, & Mold Awareness

PowerPoints were used for all of the OSHA mini-courses and are available on the [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website.

THE AGENDA—EWDJT GRANTEE PRESENTATIONS

Day two of the meeting consisted of concurrent sessions of varying topics related to all aspects of building, conducting, and sustaining an EWDJT training program.

Two grantee mentors gave presentations on each topic while an EPA regional coordinator acted as a session facilitator and took notes. Several of the topics were repeated in the afternoon. These presentations not only served as a learning session for less experienced and prospective grantees, they also generated audience discussion, providing an invaluable experience for everyone.

The topics presented this year were:

Recruitment Method: Try-Out Demonstration—OAI, IL; EPA Headquarters, DC

Additional Recruitment Methods and Marketing Approaches—Great Lakes Conservation Corps, WI; Zender Environmental Health and Research Group, AK

Working with Organized Labor—Cypress Mandela Training Center, CA; LA Conservation Corps, CA

Review of Other Environmental Workforce Programs and Resources—NIEHS, NC

Placement Strategies—Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, CT; Lewis and Clark County, MT

Special Populations: Women and Ex-offenders—Fortune Society, NY; Oregon Tradeswomen, OR

Student Support Services and Retention—City of Tacoma, WA; St. Nicks Alliance, NY

Operating an EWDJT Program in Challenged Communities—Hunters Point Family, CA; City of Detroit, MI

Sustainability: Additional Funding and Large Nonprofit Organizations—Civic Works, MD; Groundwork Providence, RI

Using Your Partners and Advisory Board Effectively—Milwaukee Workforce Investment Board, WI; Limitless Vistas, LA

Marketing and Community/Employer Awareness Techniques—City of Camden, AR; Memphis Bioworks, TN

Challenges of Rural, Urban, and Tribal Programs—Alaska Forum, AK; St. Louis Community College, MO

Tracking and Other Best Practices for Sustainability—Rose State College, OK; Energy Coordinating Agency, PA

Curriculum, Certifications, and Remedial and Life Skills Training—City of Richmond, CA; PathStone Corporation, NY

Application and Screening Methods for Students and Instructors—Coalfield Development Corporation, WV; Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board, MA

PowerPoints were used for many of the grantee presentations. Many of the grantees also shared other resources such as flyers and other marketing materials, checklists, etc.

Session notes were taken during the grantee presentations. All of the session notes were compiled by HMTRI so that attendees who attended a different concurrent session would still be able to learn from other discussions in which they were not able to participate.

All of the participants who attended this year's meeting were added to HMTRI's *Grantee and Community Outreach* listserv so that they can continue to receive announcements and other information related to job training from HMTRI and EPA. This listserv also serves as a tool for grantees to be able to request and share information and advice with their fellow grantees.

All of the PowerPoints and resources listed above are available on the [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website.

HMTRI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* was sponsored by HMTRI under a cooperative agreement with EPA.

Other technical assistance services for EWDJT grantees and prospective grantees provided by HMTRI include:

- Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Update Webinar
- Grantee and Community Outreach Listserv
- Environmental Workforce Development Professional Learning Community (PLC)
- MentorLink Program
- Grantee Scans
- Individualized Technical Assistance

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on HMTRI technical assistance services, please contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu.

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