

# Impact of the NIEHS WETP

# Quality of Training Offered

- Minimum criteria document created by NIEHS grantees
- Hands on participatory training
  - ◆ “Getting in the level A suit is the ‘real deal’”
- Relevant site-specific training
- Train the trainer/ trainers’ exchange
  - ◆ Increased trainers’ skills
  - ◆ Improved training materials

# Organizational Change

- Institutionalizing health & safety in unions & job training programs
  - ◆ “changed culture of (union) – it used to be acceptable to be exposed to hazardous substances, now we’re more aware”
- DOE training led to some facilities authorizing all workers to stop dangerous work

# Leadership Development

## – Worker-trainers

- ◆ Experienced w.t. mentoring new
- ◆ “worker trainers never stop being instructors, even when they are working”
- ◆ “ training at night in railcars for Navajo track workers”

## – E.J. activists

- ◆ Bringing in new activists critical to strengthening bridges between worker and community health

# Individual Level

- Empowering workers
  - ◆ gives workers a voice, so they can speak up about hazards
- Changing lives
  - ◆ “workers learn how to protect themselves & become environmentalists”
  - ◆ “ trainees go from court house to good job”
- Saving lives
  - ◆ “workers don’t get sick & die”

# Movement Building

- Alliances ( building new & strengthening)
  - ◆ worker/ community group/ among grantees
    - between 9/11 & Katrina collaborating on preparedness course
- Empowering communities to I.D. & respond through policy or direct action
- Standards changed, updated, new

# Expanded Access to Training

- “Fills the gap”
  - ◆ If it weren't for this program... many workers would not have received training on this issue
- Emergency response/ post crisis training
  - ◆ “Community training critical to recovery of New Orleans”
- “Indirect/ snowball effect”
  - ◆ educated workers, educate friends, family & community

# Expanded Access to Training

- Diverse audiences
  - ◆ Spanish speakers/ training in native languages
    - Janitors, poultry workers, day laborers
  - ◆ Youth/ high school, job training programs
  - ◆ Native Americans
  - ◆ Rural population

“Although progress  
is good,  
there’s still a lot  
more to do”

The background is a solid teal color. In the bottom right corner, there is a dark teal silhouette of a mountain range with jagged peaks.