



NIEHS
Worker Education and Training Program

April 21-23, 2004
Washington, DC

**Training Partnerships for Prevention, Protection and Preparedness:
A Conference to Build Stronger Partnerships On Disaster Response Training**

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**MEETING NOTES FROM MINORITY WORKER TRAINING/BROWNFIELDS
MINORITY WORKER TRAINING ISSUES BREAKOUT**

**Wednesday, April 21
Program Official Meeting**

Moderator: Sharon Beard

Sharon Beard, from NIEHS, structured her session to thank members of the Minority Worker Training/Brownfields Minority Worker Training communities for their current involvement in Program activities and to elicit feedback on future efforts. Attendees voiced their opinions about topics of interest including challenges and opportunities, lessons learned, initiatives that have worked, and local partnerships.

These topics were then used to foster discussion amongst the breakout session group. For example, some participants spoke about non-traditional training opportunities including working with parole officers and juvenile justice systems to successfully train individuals coming from these areas. Ms. Beard emphasized the importance of partnerships and the development of first source (hire) agreements to hire local residents. Due to the significance placed on this topic during Brownfields 2003 in Portland, Oregon, leaders in the field have gained a greater appreciation for the development and success of such partnerships.

Similar discussions, sharing the NIEHS successful job training model, and awareness building need to be carried out to further the goals of this specific community. Ms. Beard offered the minority worker training community several options that they can engage in to share this model as a viable workforce development program or to raise awareness. These options included partnering with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), involving themselves at Brownfields 2004, increasing their understanding of workforce development, and participating in upcoming meetings and workshops.

Sharon Beard concluded the session by asking participants what they hoped to see at Brownfields 2004. Suggestions included a session on personal protective equipment for brownfield workers, worker safety, models for effective communication, and training on mold. Some participants expressed their interest in managing a booth where grantees can bring videos and brochures of their programs to discussion with colleagues.