

Super JTI Project in North Denver

PACE International Union received, as a supplement to its EPA Grant #U45 ES06175, a small Super JTI grant to train residents of the Swansea community of North Denver, Colorado to the CFR1910.120 standard. We have already had one 40 hour HAZWOPER class in September 1998 and are scheduled to have another class in April, 1999. Our hopes were, and still are, that these residents, who have to live everyday with pollutants in their own yards, will have a chance to become employed by the contractors who are awarded federal contracts to clean up this Super JTI site.

We trained a total of 16 residents, of which, 8 were ultimately hired by the contractor for some period of time.

This project has become very much a community project. The Colorado Peoples Economic and Environmental Network (COPEEN), a neighborhood group, advertised and actively recruited the residents and encouraged them to attend the training. They also involved a neighborhood church to become involved in advertising and providing space for the training. The church even provided lunches for the participants.

We are hopeful that the graduates of our next class have a better successful hire rate. We need for the contractors to become bigger partners in these kinds of projects and would encourage them to hire more of these graduates and for a longer period of time. This is the only missing piece of what should become a truly successful Super JTI program.

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