Worker Training
Providing Career Training for Disadvantaged Residents of Environmental Justice Communities
The Early Years...
Minority Worker Training Program
Our Beginnings

The Minority Worker Training Program began as a partnership between:

• Clark Atlanta University and Xavier University of Louisiana
• Under the leadership of Dr. Beverly Wright at Xavier University and Dr. Robert Bullard at Clark Atlanta

At its inception:
• The program trained 30 disadvantaged youth
• 15 persons at each site

The program grew each year due to:
• quality instruction
• innovative program methodology and
• the culturally sensitive adult learning techniques employed
The ECWTP, formerly known as the Minority Worker Training Program, has engaged universities and communities successfully over the last 25 years.
Disaster Cleanup Opportunities 2003-2004

Post-Disaster Deployment
Columbia Space Shuttle Disaster Clean Up Crew
Delaware River Oil Spill Cleanup, Paulsboro, NJ
2004
Climate Change

It changes everything!
Hurricane Katrina 2005

Minority Worker Training Program
Post-Katrina Work through Winning Partnerships
Worker Training Partnership for Displaced Residents in Houston Post-Katrina

**Partnership:** Texas Southern University and the United Steel Workers

- 20 targeted for Truncated Basic Skills/Technical Training
- 30 targeted for Work-Ready Technical Training

**Trained:** 48 Total

- Primarily funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Worker Training Partnership for Returning Residents in New Orleans 2007

**Partnership:** United Steel Workers

**Targeted:** Small Business Contractors & Workers involved in Post-Katrina Clean Up/Rebuilding

**4 Training Cycles:** January – October 2007

**Trained:** 72 Total

- Primarily funded by the United States Department of Labor
A Winning Partnership... A Tipping Point for Neighborhood Recovery Post-Katrina

“A Safe Way Back Home” Project

• An unusual partnership between universities, labor, environmental organizations, community organizations and homeowners

• Represented a proactive approach to cleaning up neighborhoods in New Orleans as a demonstration project

• 23 homes were returned to a safe livable condition following this front and backyard soil remediation project

The United Steel Workers Union were integral partners in this important project.
The Addition of the HWWTP in 2010
Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program
Hazardous Waste Worker
Training Program

2010 through 2016
Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Grant
HWWTP Training Sites

Newark, New Jersey

New York City, New York

Other HWWTP Training Locations

Atlanta, Georgia

Current Training Sites

New Orleans

HWWTP

Savannah

Houston

Funded by:
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Grant # U45ES01664
2010 BP Oil Spill

Training & Clean up Efforts
Exhausting Work

Terrance Castle of Houma, La., wipes his sweat soon after beginning a cleanup effort on a beach near Grand Isle. (Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times / May 22, 2010)
Worker Training Response

Deployed 68 cleanup workers into the Gulf states affected by the BP Oil Spill

- New Orleans, LA – 28 deployed
- Hattiesburg, MS – 21 deployed
- Atlanta, GA – 7 deployed
- Baton Rouge, LA – 12 deployed

The workers deployed were trained at the above locations of the Minority Worker Training Program and Brownfield Minority Worker Training Programs conducted from 1997 through 2010.
BP Oil Spill Response  Training Statistics

- 21 Trained under the New Orleans MWTP
- 23 Trained in the DOL Technology-based Learning Worker Training Program
- 71 Trained in 40-Hr Hazwoper through training program partners

TOTAL TRAINED  115 Cleanup Workers
Hurricane Sandy
2012 Training and Clean up Efforts
Post Disaster Cleanup Collaborations

- Coalition of Black Trade Unionists/CARAT Team
- United Steel Workers Union

These groups worked along side of New Orleans site technical trainers to provide cleanup worker training in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.
New York and New Jersey Training Population

- **Small Businesses**
  - New York: 20
  - New Jersey: 20

- **Volunteers**
  - New York: 30
  - New Jersey: 30

- **Residents**
  - New York: 30
  - New Jersey: 30

- **Minority and Immigrant Workers**
  - New York: 150
  - New Jersey: 150

- **Workers**
  - New York: 150
  - New Jersey: 150
Training in Harlem, Far Rockaway, NY and Newark, NJ

• In total, 367 individuals were trained in our work with the communities devastated by Hurricane Sandy in 2015.
“Building Resilient Communities after Disasters” Project

Hurricane Harvey Disaster Response
Our Response to Hurricane Harvey

Mold Remediation and Awareness Training:

- Mold awareness training was conducted at 2 locations in Houston, Texas for residents in target communities.

- A total of 20 residents and leaders were selected for mold awareness – train-the-trainer – work consisting of these modules: (1) Mold Awareness Training; and (2) Introduction to and Use of Moisture Meters.

- A total of four (4) training workshops were held, two in Pleasantville and two in the Fifth Ward.

- A total of twenty (20) moisture meters were purchased and given to two Community-Based Organizations selected for this project; Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACT) and Coalition of Community Organizations (CCO).

- Each CBO also received a re-grant of $10,000 for “mucking and gutting,” sheetrock and sheetrock installation supplies, and construction costs.
Highlighting Two Local Worker Training Partnerships in New Orleans, LA
Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Partnership

The New Orleans site program staff established a partnership with the SWBNO to provide mandatory Hazardous Waste Worker training to its employees under the NIEHS HWWTP grant. 105 SWBNO employees have been trained to date.

16 Hour Asbestos Operations and 8 Hour Asbestos Worker Trainings conducted at SWBNO facilities.
The Port of New Orleans Partnership

This site also established a partnership with the Port of New Orleans to provide the appropriate hazardous waste training to its employees as well. 120 Port employees have been trained to date.
Texas Southern University/DSCEJ Partnership
2017 through present
Due to circumstances impacting the continuity of program activities, the training plan timeline was changed from a 12-month (August 2017 to July 2018) to a 6-month (February 2018 to July 2018) budget period with a corresponding decrease in funds available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Basic Skills</th>
<th>Technical Training</th>
<th>Placed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Houston</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>New Orleans</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pensacola</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>87%</td>
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- Seventy-one (71) individuals were trained in the 2017-2018 Environmental Careers Worker Training Program (ECWTP).
- 62 students were placed with a final overall placement rate of eighty-seven percent (87%).
## 2018-2019 Environmental Career Worker Training Program by the Numbers

<table>
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<td>Detroit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pensacola</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>101</strong></td>
<td><strong>85</strong></td>
<td><strong>82</strong></td>
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</table>

Placement rates unavailable for all sites as all have not completed training.
Their Success is Our Success

Impact on Lives and Today’s Workforce
Tracy Johnson...

New Orleans, LA: Worker Training Class of 2002

- **Tracy Johnson** received his certifications in 2002 in the DSCEJ Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program.

- Following Hurricane Katrina, he returned to New Orleans to continue his work in the environmental remediation industry.

- Tracy decided it was time to make his mark on the rebuilding effort in New Orleans.

- Mr. Johnson applied for and received his contractor’s license and formed his own company, **Shantra, LLC** and **Cut Masters, LLC**, hiring some of his fellow trainees to make up his work crews.

- He began to solicit work and to compete for contracts.

- One contract he secured was the clean up of Xavier University’s campus, where his dream for a better life began and continues to this day.

Success is no longer a dream for Tracy Johnson.
Vincent Bass...

Houston, TX: Worker Training Class of 2014

• **Vincent Bass** passed up 14 Full Ride Athletic Scholarships and a possible opportunity to be drafted into the NFL for a life in the streets.

• Vincent was a member of one of the most notorious street gangs and was no stranger to crime in the cities of Houston, Seattle and Los Angeles. In 1990 at the age of 24 he began serving a life sentence in the Texas Prison System. While doing time, Vincent read, became wiser and reflected on a lot of questionable decisions he had made early on in life. After serving 22 years and 19 days, he was released from prison on May 24, 2013 for good behavior.

• Being admitted and participating in the Worker Training Program at Texas Southern University assisted Vincent in the areas career advancement, interviewing skills, computer skills and professional presentation. He was introduced to the World of Environmental Safety and the importance of this industry in the current economy.

• After completing the program and acquiring certifications in HAZMAT, Basic Construction with Weatherization, Mold Remediation, Lead Abatement and graduating from the Workers Training Program; he received offers for entry-level jobs that paid wages from $12.00 to $15.00 per hour.

• Within two weeks Vincent was employed with a starting salary of $12 per hour. Within five years he has advanced to a **Production Supervisor at Merchants Metals in Houston, TX** making over **$60K per year today.**

• Although Mr. Bass has graduated from the program, hopes to become an instructor in the fields of Safety, HAZMAT, OSHA and more, to assist with providing these same opportunities to others.
In 2014, 38-year-old Kenneth Myles was a man with a family and little economic opportunity because of his educational background. Mr. Myles could not read. Kenneth had been able to get along in life by memorizing things he saw and heard; but could not read something unfamiliar to him with any clarity.

Kenneth wanted to change his life and saw this program as an opportunity for he and his family to become more than a statistic on a poverty table. What Kenneth had, and the New Orleans program staff saw, was determination and a desire to do more than just survive.

At the time, his 12-year-old daughter was trying her best to teach him to read so that he could move forward in life. As a man, Kenneth was eager to accept her help in order to help his family. As a father, his situation tore at his heart.

Program Study Skills instructor Johnnie Spriggins-Harris saw the man, the father and the situation as an opportunity to help. Kenneth and Johnnie began a mentoring relationship that changed his life.

After hours, for one hour every weekday, Kenneth would work with Johnnie who tutored him in Reading. They would walk and talk and read every sign they encountered. He would bring the books that his daughter was reading with him and they became a trio of teaching and learning together.

Reading his very first paragraph alone brought both he and Mrs. Spriggins-Harris to tears. Within 6 weeks, Kenneth had learned to read. He could read stories to his daughter! What Kenneth gained from this program, no one could take away.

Mr. Miles completed the program and was placed with Gibbs Construction, paying $15.00 per hour. Currently, he is a sub-contractor for Gibbs Construction with his own work crew!
What makes the Historically Black Colleges/Universities and Communities Worker Health and Safety Training Program the favorite work of all that we do?

Passion for Serving as a Change Agent!
Of All that We Do...

This program’s partners do a lot of good and great works:

• Community empowerment & resilience
• Public Policy engagement
• Community Advocacy
• Leadership development
• Youth mentorship & activism
Our Passion lies here...

Our Passion

• The Historically Black Colleges/Universities and Communities Worker Health and Safety Training Program ignites a passion in our collective hearts!

Why?

• Because this program changes lives in dramatic and sustained ways...
How does this program change lives?

1. Through clean up efforts performed by a trained and qualified workforce, our graduates are participating in the transformation and improvement of the physical environments in which they live.

2. This program meets the academic needs of people, young and older, who are educationally disadvantaged and most often are under-achievers. This is accomplished through a rigorous basic skills component that addresses many educational deficiencies.

3. The program provides our trainees with the skills needed to become work ready such as: Basic and workplace mathematics, Reading comprehension, Study skills and Life skills.
How does this program change lives?

4. The program creates economic stability for the trainee and his/her family through job placement opportunities with family sustaining wages.

5. In providing such financial success, the trainee experiences an increase in self worth which bolsters their strength of character allowing them to turn away from the lure of an “underground” economy.

6. The program’s wholistic approach addresses all areas of need including emotional and social well-being in addition to physical fitness and academic support. Individual and group counseling serve to buttress the approach leading to life changing success.
Our Program is Impactful Our Results are Proven

• Don’t take our word for it...

• See the report: *Economic Impact of the ECWT Program*


• “In a new report, an annual federal investment of $3.5 million in the Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP) generates a $100 million return.”