

The Historically Black Colleges/Universities and Communities Worker Health & Safety Training Program



of Training Success

Workshop:
*Responding to Training
Needs in a Continuing
Disaster Environment*
May 14, 2019
2:30 pm
Sheraton Station Square Hotel

Funded by:
**National Institute of Environmental
Health Sciences**
Grant # U45ES01664



Dr. Beverly Wright
Executive Director



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

Environmental Career Worker Training

Programs 1994 through 2016

Previous Training Sites

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

West Dallas and Houston, Texas

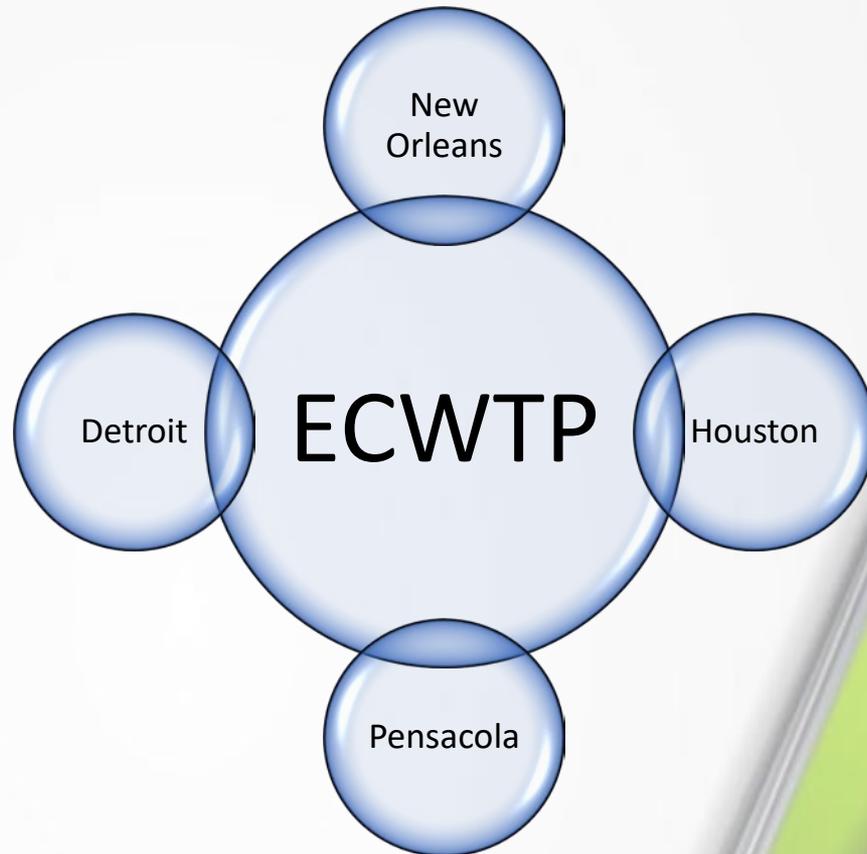
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Shreveport, Louisiana

Biloxi/Gulfport, Mississippi

Atlanta, Georgia

Savannah, Georgia



Current Training Sites

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 2003



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

Funded by:

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Current Training Sites

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

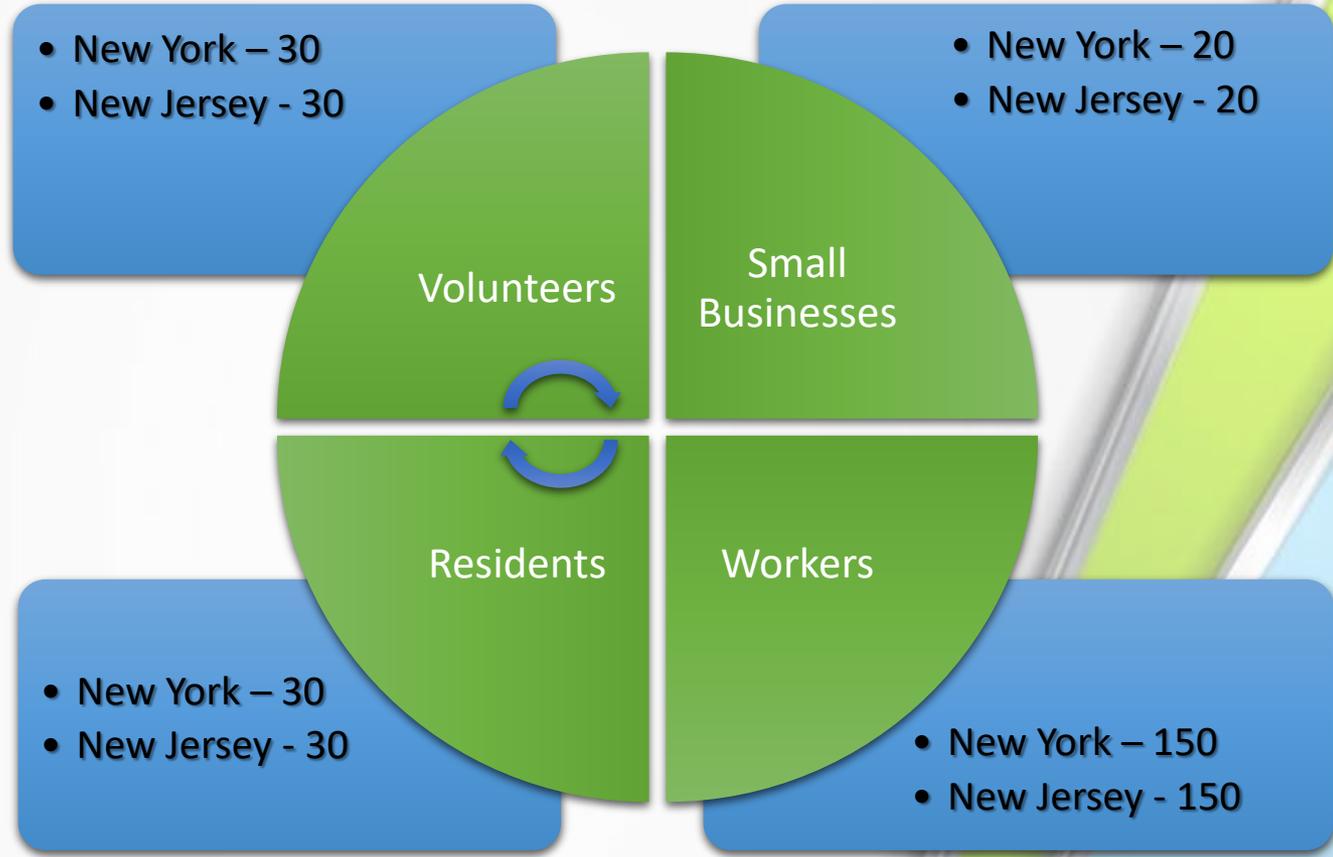
Post Disaster Cleanup Collaborations

- 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
Volunteers
Residents
Minority and
Immigrant
Workers



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

Highlighting Two Local Worker Training Partnerships

in New Orleans, LA

Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Partnership



16 Hour Asbestos Operations and 8 Hour Asbestos Worker Trainings conducted at SWBNO facilities.



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.

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**

2017-2018 Environmental Career Worker Training Program by the Numbers

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.

Site	Orientation	Basic Skills	Technical Training	Placed
Detroit	15	10	10	100%
Houston	21	21	23	83%
New Orleans	27	12	17	94%
Pensacola	31	22	21	81%
Total	94	65	71	87%

- 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

Site	Orientation	Basic Skills	Technical Training
Detroit	25	21	15
Houston	25	24	23
New Orleans	28	21	25
Pensacola	23	19	19
Total	101	85	82

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.



Vincent Bass
Production Supervisor
Merchants Metals, Inc.
Advisory Board Member
Houston Worker Training
Program

Kenneth Miles...

New Orleans, LA: Worker Training Class of 2014

- 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!



Kenneth Miles
Gibbs Construction

**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*
- https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/wtp_ecwtp_report_508.pdf
- “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.”