



# A Vision for 2025: >

## NIEHS Worker Training Program Looking to the Future

FALL AWARDEE MEETING AND WORKSHOP | SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2020

## AGENDA

All times listed are Eastern | Register to receive the ZoomGov links: <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/events.cfm?id=2603>

### MONDAY | September 21, 2020 (Optional Pre-Conference Events)

- 11:00 a.m. – noon **Olden Distinguished Lecture: Economic Inequality and Health**
- Dr. Kenneth Olden's inaugural address to establish the Distinguished Lecture Series named in his honor
  - Join on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3gS5lzB>
- 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. **Honoring Eula Bingham**
- Join on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3hCS3wr>

### TUESDAY | September 22, 2020: Awardee Meeting

- 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. **Data Management System (DMS) Overview & Changes**
- Lynn Albert, National Clearinghouse/MDB, Inc.
  - Lesley Skalla, National Clearinghouse/MDB, Inc.
- Recommended for new awardees, optional for existing awardees
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**
- 1:00 – 2:20 p.m. **Welcome and NIEHS Update**
- Joseph "Chip" Hughes, Jr., Sharon Beard, Demia Wright, Kathy Ahlmark, Jim Remington, NIEHS Worker Training Program
- 2:20 – 2:30 p.m. **Clearinghouse Update**
- Deborah Weinstock, National Clearinghouse/MDB, Inc.
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Grants Management Update**
- Jenny Greer and Lisa Edwards, NIEHS Grants Management
- 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. **Legislative Overview/Update**
- April Bennett, NIEHS
  - Donald Elisburg, National Clearinghouse

## WEDNESDAY | September 23, 2020: Technical Workshop

10:00 – 10:05 a.m. **Welcome**

- Joseph “Chip” Hughes, *NIEHS*

10:05 – 10:30 a.m. **Keynote Address: A Vision for 2025**

- Linda Rae Murray, *M.D., University of Illinois at Chicago*

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. **Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program**

- Chip Hughes
- Ashlee Fitch, *United Steelworkers/Tony Mazzocchi Center*

10:30 a.m. **Program Overview, Kick-off Thoughts**

- Chip Hughes

10:40 a.m. **Insights From Champions and Key Leaders**

**FACILITATED BY:** Ashlee Fitch

- Mark Catlin, *SEIU (retired)*
- Donald Elisburg, *National Clearinghouse*
- Tim Fields, *MDB, Inc.*
- Jill James, *Health & Safety Institute/Vivid Learning Systems*

**TOPICS TO DISCUSS:**

- Accomplishments over the last 5 years: contractor/site connections, community connections, expanding significantly beyond traditional HAZWOPER courses
- HAZWOPER in the 21st Century – what does it entail to prepare for an all hazards approach?
- 1910 (q) – emergency response trends
- Connections to EPA Superfund cleanups and brownfields programs
- Outreach, partnerships, and collaborations
- Emerging hazards, hot spots, threats and challenges

11:00 a.m. **Breakouts**

**KEY QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:**

- What should be the goals for the HWWT program for the:
  - Short-term (not related to COVID-19)
  - Short-term (related to COVID-19)
  - Long-term/five years

11:15 a.m. **Report Backs From Groups and Key Takeaways**

**FACILITATED BY:** Ashlee Fitch

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**

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1:00 – 2:15 p.m. **Environmental Careers Worker Training Program**

- Sharon Beard, *NIEHS*
- Kevin Riley, *Ph.D., UCLA-LOSH/WRCU*
- Yodit Semu, *UCLA-LOSH/WRCU*

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1:00 p.m. **Program Overview, Kick-off Thoughts**

- Sharon Beard and Yodit Semu

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1:10 p.m. **Insights From Champions and Key Leaders**

**FACILITATED BY:** Yodit Semu

- Beverly Wright, *Ph.D., Deep South Center for Environmental Justice*
- Michelle DePass, *Meyer Memorial Trust*
- Sherri Bell, *Former ECWTP student, Los Angeles Black Worker Center*
- Martanaze Hancock, *UIC Government Services*

**TOPICS TO DISCUSS:**

- Accomplishments over the last 5 years
- Connections to EPA Superfund cleanups and brownfields programs
- Outreach, partnerships, and collaborations
- Individual impacts of program

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1:30 p.m. **Charge to Breakouts**

- Kevin Riley

**KEY QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:**

- **Challenges:**
  1. How can programs effectively recruit, train, and place students during the time of COVID-19?
  2. What kinds of unique obstacles are trainees likely to face during this time of COVID-19?
  3. How can programs obtain much needed PPE's for training during COVID-19?
  4. How can programs engage program partners and instructors to adapt to virtual/online training needs?
- **Goals for the Next 5 Years: Short-Term vs. Long-Term Goals**
  5. How to increase the retention and job placement rate for trainees? How can we increase job placement to 100% of those trained?
  6. How do we address the impact of opioid addiction to our ECWT population?
  7. How can we increase the number of job placements in the environmental fields? For example, most of our trainees are going into construction jobs.
  8. How do we support the new grantee (Sustainable Workplace Alliance, Inc.) to help sustain our great success under this program?
  9. Opportunities – how do you see the ECWTP addressing new job opportunities/sectors/environmental initiatives?
  10. Are there opportunities to have our programs apply for funding or participate in programs that are developing? For example, setting up training for ventilation systems to retrofit in schools, engaging in wastewater and sewage careers, etc.
- **Deliverables:**
  11. Can we describe the economic impacts of the ECWTP from an individual program basis? For example, how can we better highlight the impacts of individuals and programs?
  12. How do we better highlight all of the impacts of the program on individual lives, communities, etc.? How can we enhance our evaluations to capture these impacts?
  13. How do we enhance the [ECWTP 25th Anniversary page](#) to show more of our accomplishments? Podcasts, interviews, social media, etc.?

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1:45 p.m. **Report Backs From Groups and Key Takeaways**

**FACILITATED BY:** Kevin Riley

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2:15 – 3:30 p.m. **Nuclear Worker Training Program**

- Demia Wright, *NIEHS*
  - Gary Gustafson, *CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training*
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2:15 p.m. **Program Overview**

- Demia Wright
  - Rochelle Zimmerman, *U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management*
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2:25 p.m. **Insights From Program Champions and Grantees**

**FACILITATED BY:** Gary Gustafson

- **Perspective from a DOE Colleague**
    - Patricia Aldridge, *ANR Group, Inc. at HAMMER Volpentest Training Center*
  - **Perspective from our NIEHS-DOE Liaison**
    - Ted Giltz, *NIEHS contractor*
  - **Perspective from a DOE Contractor**
    - Shayne Eyre, *Idaho National Laboratory and Chair, Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) Training Working Group*
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2:40 p.m. **Open Discussion: Current Opportunities and Challenges for the Short- and Long-Term**

- **Contractor Connections:**
    - How do we connect and communicate with contractors and site personnel in a way that allows us to sustain our progress through contractor transitions? Where is the low hanging fruit for contractor connections?
  - **COVID-19:**
    - Longer-term, where are virtual methods appropriate that still promote worker safety, peer learning, and worker-trainers? How do we provide leadership on this for DOE?
  - **Building the Workforce:**
    - What are strategies to build the local workforce, including enhancing our trainer development programs? How do community partnerships and “fenceline” trainings play into this?
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3:00 p.m. **Breakouts**

**KEY QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:**

- **What should be the goals for the DOE program for the:**
    - Short-term (not related to COVID-19)
    - Short-term (related to COVID-19)
    - Long-term/five years
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3:15 p.m. **Report Backs From Groups and Key Takeaways**

**FACILITATED BY:** Demia Wright

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3:30 – 3:45 p.m. **Break**

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3:45 – 5:00 p.m. **HAZMAT Disaster Preparedness Training Program**

- Jim Remington, *NIEHS*
  - John Scardella, *United Steelworkers/Tony Mazzocchi Center*
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3:45 p.m. **Program Overview, Kick-off Thoughts**

- Jim Remington
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4:00 p.m. **USW Specialized Emergency Response Trainers (SERT) Program Overview**

- John Scardella

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4:15 p.m. **Breakouts**

**KEY QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:**

- **HDPTP**
  - What courses do you currently offer under HDPTP (if you don't have an HDPTP program do you offer a course that could be used/adapted to disaster response)?
  - What courses should be added under HDPTP (customer/organizational requests)?
  - Have you had problems finding students for preparedness training for disaster/emergency response?
  - Have you been successful in outreach to vulnerable workers? How did you do this?
- **Disaster Response**
  - Have you participated in disaster response activities? If so, why? If not, why?
  - Do you have formal training for disaster response instructors?
  - Do you have partnerships with local government emergency response? Community groups?
  - Do you have partnerships with national/local Nongovernmental Organizations (Red Cross, Salvation Army, faith based, etc.)?
  - Have you collaborated with other grantees in a disaster response?

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4:40 p.m. **Report Backs From Groups and Key Takeaways**

**FACILITATED BY:** John Scardella

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5:00 p.m. **Closing for Day One**

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**THURSDAY | September 24, 2020: Technical Workshop (continued)**

10:00 – 11:15 a.m. **Infectious Disease Training**

- Amber Mitchell, *Ph.D., NIEHS contractor*
- Shawn Gibbs, *Ph.D., Texas A&M University*

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10:00 a.m. **Program Overview, Kick-off Thoughts**

- Amber Mitchell

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10:05 a.m. **Insights, Best Practices, and Lessons Learned and Moving Forward**

**FACILITATED BY:** Amber Mitchell

- Kevin Yeskey, *M.D., MDB, Inc.*
  - Nina Jaitly, *M.D., Novartis Pharmaceuticals*
  - Shawn Gibbs, *Ph.D., Texas A&M University*
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10:30 a.m. **Breakouts**

**KEY QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:**

1. How are you planning to integrate infectious disease curriculum (e.g., pathogen transmission, worker-to-worker spread, community spread, mental health resiliency, etc.) and topics into regular hazardous waste, disaster response, and environmental career training programs? Short term? Long term?
2. What are the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic where we have seen that both community and workplace risk factors impact workplace and worker safety? (if transmission can happen worker-to-worker in any workplace environment?)
  - a. How does this impact the built environment?
  - b. Engineering controls?
  - c. Trainee/worker pre-screening?
  - d. Hands-on training?
  - e. How risk assessments are performed?
3. How do you plan to interconnect with other organizations on infectious disease hazards and training curricula?
  - a. Locally? Grantees? Outreach? Collaboration?
  - b. What would make collaborations easier? More effective?
4. How did COVID-19 change the culture of the work force? Workplace? Employer responsibilities? How will you incorporate this into future training? Short term? Long term? (This could include policies on the following: sick leave, paid leave, work-relatedness for recordkeeping, workers compensation, or more)
5. Most non-healthcare workplaces hadn't incorporated controls for infectious disease in their program plans (beyond bloodborne pathogens and potentially TB), given this how does what we know about COVID-19 now change based on worker-to-worker or worker-to-client/customer exposures to ID risks like influenza, norovirus, other coronaviruses (colds), HIV, hepatitis C?

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10:50 a.m. **Report Backs From Groups and Key Takeaways**

**FACILITATED BY:** Shawn Gibbs

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11:10 a.m. **Session Wrap-Up**

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11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) e-Learning for HAZMAT Program**

- Kathy Ahlmark, *NIEHS*
- Margaret Rush, *Ph.D., Gryphon Scientific*

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11:15 a.m. **Program Overview, Kick-off Thoughts**

- Kathy Ahlmark

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11:20 a.m. **Pioneers of the WTP SBIR Program**

- Henry Ryng, *InXsol*
- Cesar Bandera, *Ph.D., Cell Podium*
- Margaret Rush, *Ph.D., Gryphon Scientific*
- Carl Bautista, *Spectral Labs*
- Q & A

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11:50 a.m. **Vivid Learning Systems (Work with UAW)**

- Jana Humphreys, *Vivid Learning Systems*
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12:00 p.m. **SBIR Panel**

- Gautham Venugopalan, *Ph.D., Gryphon Scientific*
- William Buras, *Tietronix*
- Erik Fullerton, *Radiant Creative Group*
- Henry Ryng, *InXsol*
- Cesar Bandera, *Ph.D., CellPodium*
- Peter Schmitt, *Ph.D., CellPodium*

**TOPICS TO DISCUSS:**

- Social distancing has changed the way that a lot of organizations have to deliver training, including not only technology but curriculum redesign. Moving forward, how might we use technology to reimagine the way we design and deliver training and education during and after COVID-19?
- How might we use technology to improve access to training for traditionally underserved groups?
- What are areas of challenge? (Minimum criteria, analytics, registration/retention, fee based learning, blended learning, hands on training, credentials, challenges of bandwidth or devices, language)
- What are the new promising technologies to watch and apply in the next 12 months?

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12:30 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch Break**

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1:30 – 2:00 p.m. **Overview of Breakouts**

- Chip Hughes

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2:00 – 2:05 p.m. **Move to Breakouts**

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2:05 – 2:35 p.m. **Breakouts on Cross-Cutting Program Issues**

The goal of these breakout sessions is to come up with realistic, reachable goals and activities (short-term and long-term) for the operational matrix.

- COVID-19, Wildfires, and Other Disasters
  - Jim Remington and Amber Mitchell
- Environmental and Occupational Justice/Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts
  - Sharon Beard and Donele Wilkins, *Green Door Initiative*
- Opioids, Mental Health, Stress and the Workplace
  - Jonathan Rosen, *National Clearinghouse*
- Increasing Collaborations Among Grantees
  - Chip Hughes
- Evaluation, Monitoring, and Strategic Communications
  - Demia Wright

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2:35 – 2:45 p.m. **Break**

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2:45 – 3:15 p.m. **Breakouts Continued**

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3:15 – 3:45 p.m. **Report Back**

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3:45 – 4:00 p.m. **Director's Q&A**

- Rick Woychik, *Ph.D., Director, NIEHS and NTP*

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4:00 – 4:15 p.m. **Closing Thoughts and Charge to Grantees**

- Darryl Alexander, *American Federation of Teachers, consultant*