

July 10, 2013

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – Cycle 9, Session 1 (session 89)

Topics: Current Happenings / Updates from Washington  
Goals and Objectives of the Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC)  
City of Tacoma and Clover Park Technical College  
Opportunities

**NOTE:** This was the first PLC session in Cycle 9. This cycle will feature presentations from current and past EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grantees; and consist of ten bi-weekly, 30-minute conference calls held on Wednesdays from 2:00-2:30 p.m. EDT.

### **Current Happenings / Updates from Washington**

Latest news as of July 10, 2013

Congratulations to the new 2013 EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grantees. We also need to acknowledge those who have excellent programs or are in the process of developing new programs and were not funded. Although this cycle represented a record number of grants awarded, funds remain limited.

Good news... The Environmental Workforce program is an annual competition and we urge those interested in environmental workforce development to continue improving their proposals in preparation for the next funding cycle.

The 16 funded grantees for 2013 are:

1. Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, CT – Training 42 students
2. Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board, MA – Training 45 students
3. The Fortune Society, Inc., NY – Training 45 students
4. Pathways-VA, Inc., VA – Training 40 students
5. Florida State College at Jacksonville, FL – Training 60 students
6. OAI, Inc., IL – Training 45 students
7. EmployIndy, IN – Training 48 students
8. Mott Community College, MI – Training 51 students
9. Southern University at Shreveport, LA – Training 60 students
10. Rose State College, OK – Training 95 students
11. St. Louis Community College – Training 81 students
12. Northern Arizona University, AZ – Training 36 students
13. City of Oxnard, CA – Training 55 students
14. City of Richmond, CA – Training 60 students
15. Zender Environmental Health and Research Group, AK – Training 32 students
16. City of Tacoma, WA – Training 54 students

### **Goals and Objectives of the Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC)**

This PLC series will feature discussions and presentations by our best EPA grantees. We will also have discussions with past grantees who have continued their work without federal assistance, as well as those no longer involved in workforce development.

The goals and objectives of the PLC are to:

- Provide a forum for experienced programs to share and mentor their experience with new and developing programs.
- Provide a place where mature and developing programs can learn from each other.
- Explore new ideas and concepts for sustainable program development.
- Share information, latest news, and developments related to workforce development and training.
- Network and find others with common interests.

### **City of Tacoma and Clover Park Technical College**

Many thanks to Christine Campbell from Clover Park Technical College for presenting at this session.

The city of Tacoma, WA first received EPA funding in 2003, and again in 2006, 2008, 2009 (ARRA grant), 2011, and 2013. What makes their program one of EPA's best? The key in the formation and organizational support were efforts by the city of Tacoma to establish a workforce training program for residents of their community. With an assessment grant in place and identification of potential local employers, city government organized and supported the effort to bring together meaningful working partners. Most important, the working partners included organizations that represented each component of a sustainable workforce program. Components included recruitment, training, student support, and placement services. Each partner brought to the organization their specialized talent. In addition, each partner contributed their leveraged network, contacts, and resources.

Christine attributes their success to the close and cordial working relationship among partners. Peter Guzman, city of Tacoma, has provided the environment, effort, and support needed from city government to make the partnership excel. Without the city "buy in", success would be difficult.

Below is a quick overview of Tacoma's environmental workforce program.

- Key partners
  - Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
  - WorkForce Central
  - Metropolitan Development Council
  - Tacoma REACH Center
  - Clover Park Technical College
  - (Every partner brings leveraged services, networks, and resources to the program.)
- Curriculum (core training program includes 206 hours of instruction)
  - 40-Hour HAZWOPER
  - OSHA construction safety
  - Confined space entry
  - Mold assessment and remediation
  - Forklift for construction reach and warehouse
  - Chemical awareness
  - Underground storage tank leak prevention
  - Stormwater management
  - Alternative treatment technologies
- Four supplemental training courses are also offered to graduates
  - OSHA disaster site worker
  - Certified erosion and sediment control

- Lead and asbestos worker training
- Lead renovation, repair, and painting
- Certifications
  - Seven state and federal certifications are offered through the core training program
  - Four additional certifications are available through supplemental training
- Placement and tracking
  - Will train 54 students and track graduates for one year
- Student recruitment
  - Program targets
    - Veterans
    - Unemployed and under-employed individuals
    - Residents of Tacoma who have been disproportionately impacted by environmental threats to include leaking underground storage tanks
  - Program uses TABE for proof of 10<sup>th</sup> grade level in reading and math
- Student support
  - Students are reviewed for potential (WIA) benefits

Contact information:

Christine Campbell – Clover Park Technical College  
[Christine.campbell@cptc.edu](mailto:Christine.campbell@cptc.edu)

Peter Guzman – City of Tacoma  
[pguzman@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:pguzman@cityoftacoma.org)

### **Opportunities**

#### *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting – September 18-19, 2013*

The Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI), under a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. EPA, will invite active PLC members to attend the *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting*. This meeting provides a unique opportunity to share a variety of approaches to environmental job training and development. The focus of the meeting is for grantees to exchange information and ideas with each other and with EPA Regional and Headquarters representatives.

This year's meeting will be held in Alexandria, VA on September 18-19, 2013. As in past years, the agenda will include both small- and large-group sessions. The cost of the conference is covered for everyone, in addition to lodging for two nights for people attending from out of town. Participants pay their own travel expenses.

For questions or for more information, please contact Glo Hanne at [ghanne@eicc.edu](mailto:ghanne@eicc.edu), or by phone at 563.441.4081 or toll-free 1.866.419.6761.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Next PLC Session: July 24, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at [msenew@aol.com](mailto:msenew@aol.com).

Visit our *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs. All PLC session notes and recordings are also located on the *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-corner/>.