

December 19, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – Cycle 7, Session 9 (session 78)

Special note: This is the last session for PLC Cycle 7. **A new PLC cycle will start on January 9, 2013.**

Happy Holidays from HMTRI

Topics: Updates from Washington
 Things to do before the Request for Proposals is issued
 Florida State College at Jacksonville
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 Upcoming environmental workforce related conferences

Updates from Washington

It is now likely that the next Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released in January with awards in late spring or early summer. Delays in issuing RFPs are not unusual. PLC members will be sent a copy as soon as it is released. It's time to begin program planning now before the RFP is issued.

Things to do before the Request for Proposals is issued

1. Contact your EPA Regional Coordinator before the RFP is issued. Coordinators will not be able to discuss specific grants after the RFP is issued. Contact information is at the end of these notes.
2. Assess your community.
 - a. Check out the competition. Who trains locally?
 - b. Search employers as potential partners, mentors, and program contributors.
 - c. Research local government.
 - d. Find contacts in the Office of Economic Development.
 - e. Locate Brownfields contacts in the state and local Departments of Natural Resources.
 - f. Become familiar with locally funded Department of Labor programs
3. Consider potential partners: those to partner with, and those to coordinate and inform.
4. Search out organizations with federal grant and training experience as potential partners/mentors.
5. Review last year's Request for Proposals. Minor changes will be made in this year's review criteria.
6. If a previous submission was not funded, contact your EPA Regional Coordinator for a review before the 2013 RFP is issued.
7. Research previous grants or proposals for local area-wide Planning Grants, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, or Cleanup grants. Coordinate with the stakeholders in these grants.
8. Start developing a stakeholder network.
9. Sign up for *Brownfields 2013*. It is not too early. (<http://www.brownfieldsconference.org>)
10. If you would like to invite a guest to the next PLC call, feel free to forward this information.
11. Check out the *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at www.brownfields-toolbox.org. If you are interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu.

Florida State College at Jacksonville

Florida State College at Jacksonville graduates responded to Sandy, the recent storm that hit the northeast. A group of seven traveled into the northeast region for disaster assistance with CDS Environmental Services, LLC. Two graduates, Gary Laughton and David Bedsole from a Veterans class that graduated August 31, 2012, are working inside Verizon's flooded communication hub. Fellow graduate, Charles Bullock, is working at the front lines of a fuel spill off the shores of New York. We are thrilled that the training the individuals received made it possible to assist with the disaster recovery.

Thank you, Sarah Ashbrook, for your contribution and good work.

Sarah is the Environmental Workforce Development & Job Training Program Project Coordinator for the Florida State Environmental Workforce and Job Training Program. Sarah's contact information and a link to additional information from the Wall Street Journal are below.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204707104578091171538491386.html?KEYWORDS=verizon+flooded+headquarters>

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Resources to check out over the holiday

The National Employment Law Project (NELP) is a "must see" resource for workforce development programs that includes publication news and employment resources. Please check out this powerful resource. Below are samples of their resources:

- Ex-offender employment issues – A helpful article titled *Criminal Records and Employment* summarizing ex-offender employment issues can be found at http://www.nelp.org/index.php/content/content_issues/category/criminal_records_and_employment/
- Reducing employment barriers for people with arrests and convictions. A PowerPoint presentation from Michelle Natividad Rodriguez from the National Employment Law Project (NELP) that addresses reducing employment barriers for people with arrests and convictions is included in the PLC Corner for this session on the *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site.
- Check out the National Employment Law Project (NELP) Home page at <http://www.nelp.org/>.

Funding opportunities

2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants. EPA announced that it is seeking applicants for a total of \$1.5 million in environmental justice small grants to be awarded in 2013. EPA's environmental justice efforts aim to ensure equal environmental and health protections for all Americans, regardless of race or socioeconomic status. The grants enable non-profit organizations to conduct research, provide education, and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution. Grants are available for up to \$30,000 each. The 2013 grant solicitation is now open and will close on Jan. 7, 2013. Applicants must be incorporated non-profits or tribal organizations working to educate, empower, and enable their communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues. EPA will host four pre-application teleconference calls on Dec. 1, 2012; and Dec. 13, 2012 to help applicants understand the requirements.

For more information on the 2013 Environment Justice Small Grants Request for Proposals and schedule of pre-application teleconference calls, please visit

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/grants/ej-smgrants-rfp-2013.pdf>.

Upcoming environmental workforce related conferences

2013 Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference

April 16-18, 2013

Washington Hilton, Washington, DC

The 2013 conference will focus on 1) how to grow the clean economy to scale; 2) the role of strategic partnerships between the public and private sectors in solving the country's pressing economic and environmental challenges; 3) the role of regulations in creating new markets; and 4) how people in every part of the U.S. are working collaboratively for social, economic and environmental justice, while building an economy with good jobs. Please visit www.greenjobsconference.org/2013.

National Brownfields 2013 Conference, Atlanta, GA, May 15-17, 2013. This is the most important environmental workforce related conference of the year attended by over 4,000 participants in Brownfields-related fields. Registration and housing is now open. It's important to get your hotel reservation early as the closest hotels will fill up fast. For more information, please visit

<http://www.brownfieldsconference.org>.

HMTRI will conduct a workshop discussion/roundtable on May 17, 2013, 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM as part of the Marketplace of Ideas. The session is called *Environmental Workforce Development Programs: How Can a Community Build a Success?* Earmark the workshop or go to

<http://www.brownfieldsconference.org/en/Session/1974?returnurl=%2fen%2fsessions>.

It's important to get your hotel reservation early as the closest hotels will fill up fast. For more information, please visit <http://www.brownfieldsconference.org>.

OSHA Health and Safety Train-the-Trainer, Davenport, IA, June 3-14, 2013. Each year the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST) provides a no-cost intensive "boot camp" for instructors. Scholarships covering travel, tuition, lodging, and meals are available. Space is limited. For additional information and the application forms, go to

<http://nationalpete.org/downloads-resources/>.

EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators:

- Region 1 – Kathleen Castagna, 617. 918.1429, castagna.kathleen@epa.gov
- Region 2 – Schenine Mitchell, 212. 637.3282, mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
- Region 3 – Jeff Barnett, 215.814.3246, barnett.jeff@epa.gov
- Region 4 – Kathleen Curry, 404.562.8660, curry.kathleen@epa.gov
- Region 5 – Linda Morgan, 312.886.4747, morgan.linda@epa.gov
- Region 6 – Amber Perry, 214.665.3172, perry.amber@epa.gov
- Region 7 – Ina Square, 913.551.7357, square.ina@epa.gov
- Region 8 – Christina Wilson, 303.312.6706, wilson.christina@epa.gov
- Region 9 – Wallace Woo, 415.972.3270, woo.wallace@epa.gov
- Region 10 – Susan Morales, 206.553.7299, morales.susan@epa.gov

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: January 9, 2013
 2:00pm EDT

Topics: First session of PLC Cycle 8

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at msenew@aol.com.

Visit our *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs.