

March 27, 2019



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 20, Session 6.

This series of bi-weekly phone calls examines effective Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) strategies from experienced grantees. PLC calls share ideas among successful grantees and prepare interested organizations for the next EPA Request for Proposals. Calls will be a mix of open discussion, workforce development news, resources, and presentations from current grantees.

Topics:

1. News from Washington and HMTRI
2. Questions from PLC members
3. Student awareness and recruitment strategies – Santa Fe Community College, Janet Kerley
4. Webinars
5. Training and professional development opportunities
6. EWDJT grantee events
7. Resources
8. Brownfield conferences, workshops, and meetings

1. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON AND HMTRI

EPA Happenings:

The request for Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training proposals appears to be just weeks away. Based on information from EPA, this is what the timetable now looks like:

- Request for Proposals issued – April 2019
- Proposals due (60 days from the announcement) –June 2019
- Proposal evaluations (60-90 days after proposal submissions) – July – September 2019
- Awards and work plans –October 2019
- Authorization to spend funds – Fall 2019 (after the new federal fiscal year begins)
- 1st year training cohorts – winter 2019 and spring 2020 for summer placements

We will keep PLC participants informed as we learn more.

We encourage all potential applicants to contact their EPA Regional Coordinator before the RFP is issued (see section 9 for contact information). Let the Regional Coordinator know your interest in submitting an EWDJT proposal. Many Regional Coordinators maintain a listserv for past, current, and potential grantees. Until the RFP is issued, Regional Coordinators are able to provide guidance that may be useful when developing the EWDJT grant proposal. After the RFP is issued, Regional Coordinators are no longer able to discuss individual applications.

HMTRI News:

HMTRI has begun planning for the Annual All-Grantee Meeting later this summer. Thanks for the great response to our scan on preferred meeting dates. We will use that information along with hotel and speaker availability, along with EPA staff schedules, to find the most accommodating dates. As we get closer, your advice on topics, speakers, and presentation ideas will guide us in developing an agenda.

The All-Grantee Meeting is open to current and alumni grantees. Community organizations interested in establishing an EWDJT program are also invited. The two day workshop consists of large and small group sessions, peer to peer coaching, networking opportunities and discussions with Regional and EPA staff. Lodging is provided with participants covering the cost of transportation and evening meals.

2. QUESTIONS FROM PLC MEMBERS

If you have questions you would like addressed, send it to Heather Ballou at hkballou@eicc.edu.

How will we be notified when the RFP is issued?

When the RFP is issued, prospective applicants will be informed several ways.

- *HMTRI will send copies of the RFP to all listserv members.*
- *PLC members will also receive a special notice with the RFP attached and scheduled dates for EPA webinars reviewing the RFP.*
- *Grants.gov and the EPA website will also post notices of the RFP.*

The PLC will continue biweekly discussions addressing RFP evaluation criteria and best practices used by successful EWDJT grantees

3. STUDENT AWARENESS AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES – SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, JANET KERLEY

Thanks Janet for a great presentation.

Santa Fe Community College(SFCC) has received two EPA environmental workforce development grants. The first award was granted in 2011 and the second in 2017. Rural and Tribal communities are among the most difficult EWDJT programs to administer and sustain. SFCC has used lessons learned from its 2011 grant to develop an impressive program in 2017. Especially impressive is its student awareness and recruitment program which Janet Kerley will discuss today. We would consider the SFCC awareness and recruitment program to be a best practice strategy for rural and Tribal EWDJT programs. Janet has provided a PowerPoint that systematically describes how SFCC informs and recruits community residents to begin a career in environmental technology. The PowerPoint is available at Brownfields-toolbox.org

Using a PowerPoint presentation, prospective applicants are guided thru a series of talking points. On completing the presentation, residents unfamiliar to the world of environmental technology and remediation will have a basic understanding about environmental careers, the SFCC program, what to expect, and how to apply. Janet combines radio, print, public meetings, and social media to deliver her message. Here are the talking points covered in the presentation:

- **What is an Environmental Technician?**
- **Are there Jobs for environmental technicians?**
- **What is the EWDJT program?**
- **Requirements to enter the program.**
- **The application process.**
- **The applicant selection process.**
- **What can participants expect?**
- **Dates and duration of training.**
- **Expectations of accepted applicants.**

Before addressing these topics, let's get an overview of the SFCC program.

Target communities

Santa Fe Community College is targeting rural Native Americans, veterans, and disconnected youth in the Counties of Mora, San Miguel Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, and Taos. These target areas include economically disadvantaged minority communities that currently receive or have received state or federal brownfields funding. As previously noted SFCC operates in one of the most challenging communities (rural, tribal, low income, and underserved).

- San Miguel County, 24.5 percent of families live below the poverty level.
- 78 percent of residents in San Miguel County are Hispanic.
- Mora County - the unemployment rate is 16.4 percent.
- In Mora County 81.6 percent of residents are Hispanic.
- The median household incomes in both counties are lower than the national median.
- The residents served include 22 tribal communities.
- The average unemployment rate for Native Americans is 43 percent.

Curriculum

The community and labor market assessments identified brownfields in the target communities and a lack of workers trained for brownfields work in the northeastern quadrant of the state and on Pueblo and Tribal lands. The largest potential employer in the service area includes Los Alamos National Laboratory with technician employment needs extending many years. The job training program and curriculum has been developed with local environmental employers and property owners with the expectation that EWDJT graduates will obtain local employment.

Santa Fe Community College plans to train and place at least 51 graduates in environmental jobs with each cohort ranging from 25-30 applicants.

164 hours of instruction include the following training and certification:

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- Hazardous waste management
- Solid waste management
- CPR/first aid
- OSHA 30-hour
- Phase I and II environmental site assessments
- Forklift operator
- Environmental sampling
- Confined space entry
- DOT hazmat

Participants who complete the training program will earn 12 state or federal certifications with an estimated value to employers of \$5,000. Participants will receive a \$250 stipend to assist with travel expenses ($\frac{1}{2}$ at 2 weeks and $\frac{1}{2}$ at Graduation). Additionally students will receive a Fire 7 Tablet for training materials.

Key partners leveraging SFCC resources include the following organizations

- Coordinated Vision LLC
- Northern New Mexico College
- New Mexico Branch of the Association of General Contractors

- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Santa Fe YouthWorks
- SER Jobs for Progress
- New Mexico Workforce Connection
- Northern Area Local Workforce Development Board
- Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council Office of Environmental and Technical Assistance

In today's PLC, Janet guided us thru their student awareness and recruitment program.

What is an Environmental Technician?

In basic general terms, a description of environmental technician is provided. "Environmental technicians work under the direction of an environmental scientist to do monitoring of the environment and investigating sources of pollution through field and laboratory testing." More important, the SFCC presentation presents in photographs various jobs being performed by EWDJT workers. Photos and videos are one of the best descriptors of environmental jobs EWDJT graduates perform. In the SFCC presentation, still photos are presented. YouTube links would be another excellent delivery method although many in the target community may not have easy access to digital links.

Are there Jobs for environmental technicians?

The answer to this question is reinforced by testimonials from Tom Udall the U.S. Senator from New Mexico accompanied by an additional letter from the U.S. Representative. U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics are presented, but the most convincing presentation includes copies of local job postings for environmental technicians. Postings include organizations seeking workers, employment requirements, and position descriptions. The more definitive employment opportunities are, the more likely a commitment to place graduates will be expressed.

What is the EWDJT program?

The Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) program is explained to potential applicants. Nothing is totally free. Benefits and expectations need to be communicated as early as possible.

- Who supports the training program?
- What does it cost?
- Why does the program exist?
- How does the program contribute to the community?
- What are the expectations from the students?
- What can participants expect from the program?
- Who should and shouldn't apply?

Requirements to enter the program.

SFCC does not require drug testing as an entry requirement. It is emphasized, however, that employers are likely to test and it will become a condition of employment. "Don't waste your time" is the mantra expressed.

- At least 18 years old
- Able to attend the entire 5-week program
- Able to lift at least 30 lbs.
- Be unemployed, underemployed, or low income

The application process.

- Fill a basic online application <http://www.sfcc.edu/epatraining>.
- Submit information to www.sfcc.edu/epatraining.
- Expect a follow up phone call to collect additional information.
- Participate in for a short interview.
- An acceptance or rejection will be sent by email to you by May 1, 2019.
- Accepted participants will need to go to a Workforce Development Center and complete the three WorkKey Assessments: Applied Math, Workplace Documents, Graphic Literacy.
- Instructions will be in your acceptance email.

The applicant selection process.

- 25 to 30 applications will be accepted.
- Individuals interested in the environmental career, not just a job.
- Must be unemployed or under employed.
- Commitment to complete entire training program.
- Able to meet employer requirements.

What can participants expect?

- No costs for training
- \$250 stipend to assist with travel expenses (½ at 2 weeks and ½ at graduation)
- A Fire 7 Tablet for training materials
- Approximately \$5000 worth of training certifications including the following:
 - ✓ Forklift Operator
 - ✓ Solid Waste Management
 - ✓ Hazardous Waste Management
 - ✓ Hazmat (DOT)
 - ✓ HAZWOPER 40 hr. General Site Worker
 - ✓ OSHA Construction Standards (30 hr.)
 - ✓ Environmental Assessments
 - ✓ Environmental Sampling
 - ✓ CPR/First Aid Confined Space Entry

Dates and duration of training.

- May 20 to June 21, 2019
- Northern New Mexico College campus in Española
- Monday through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Expectations of accepted applicants.

- No certificates granted unless entire training program completed.
- Graduates must get a job, preferably in the environmental industry.
- Graduates must report salary and benefits to SFCC for two years.

Janet Kerley would be happy to discuss the SFCC student awareness and recruitment in addition to other innovative aspects of their program including use of tablets and student stipends. She is in the middle of her awareness and recruitment process and would initially prefer email.

Janet Kerley, Santa Fe Community College

6401 Richards Ave.

Santa Fe, NM 87508

Phone: 505-507-5534

Janet.Kerley@sfcc.edu

4. WEBINARS

[The Color of Law](#)

April 9, 2019 2:00 p.m. EST

Gentrification and displacement are critical topics for cities and neighborhoods, and for redevelopment, as well. CCLR is pleased to welcome Richard Rothstein, author of the 2017 book *The Color of Law*. Richard will frame the history of segregation in the United States, and help us understand how racial segregation influences redevelopment decisions today.

Join CCLR for this first in a series of webinars dedicated to equity and redevelopment, as we explore how these issues impact communities around the country, and what different local jurisdictions are doing to mitigate the risk of displacement.

Note: It is highly recommended that you read *The Color of Law* prior to this webinar. *The Color of Law* is available at local libraries and from a wide variety of book sellers

[EPA Office of Community Revitalization's Strategies for Food Systems, Health, and Economic Development](#)

April 24, 2019 2:00 p.m. - 3:01 p.m. EDT

Join National TAB for a webinar featuring strategies to make every community healthy, wealthy and wise. Improving environmental and human health outcomes in communities across the country is challenging under any circumstances. In the early part of the 21st Century this is particularly true given the economic, political, and social changes occurring. EPA's Office of Community Revitalization has developed strategies and programs that assist communities' efforts to take stock of their assets, identify visions for growth that supports a better environment and healthy living. Through this webinar you'll hear how EPA collaborates with communities to grow their economies and improve the environment.

Speakers: Stephanie Bertaina, Senior Policy Analyst, EPA Office of Community Revitalization Melissa Kramer, Ph.D., Senior Environmental Protection Specialist, EPA Office of Community Revitalization Chitra Kumar, Director, Federal and State Division, EPA Office of Community Revitalization

5. TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[ACRES training for EWDJT grantees](#)

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

1p.m. Eastern Time

EPA will offer the following online training to aid Brownfields Cooperative Agreement Recipients in reporting their grant-funded activities using ACRES. To join the session there is no need to pre-register for training, however it is recommended that you [test your computer](#) to ensure compatibility prior to the training. On the day of training, follow the instructions below (you will need to join BOTH a conference call and a virtual meeting):

Phone: Dial 1 (408) 650-3123

Phone: Enter the conference code 958-346-757

Phone: the Audio Pin is not needed

[WebEx Session EXIT](#)

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

1 p.m. Eastern Time

Click the Join Meeting link next to the training you would like to attend, enter the meeting password: ACRES

The Community and College Consortium for Health and Safety Training

The Community and College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST), administered by the [Partnership for Environmental Technology Education](#) (PETE) can training components for EPA EWDJT trainers. CCCHST consists of 120 partners offering hazardous materials instruction (HAZWOPER and related Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.120) in most states of the nation. CCCHST uses a curriculum developed by the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) through a train-the-trainer model program. CCCHST instructors, prepared by PETE and HMTRI, annually train 10,000 workers, technicians, and supervisors to protect themselves and their communities from exposure to hazardous materials encountered during waste site clean-up, disaster site cleanup, Brownfields redevelopment, transportation of hazardous materials, and in response to spills and releases of hazardous materials. Here is the schedule for upcoming CCCHST professional development opportunities:

..... **Now accepting applications**

The GreatEST Institute

June 3-14, 2019

Davenport, Iowa

OSHA Health and Safety Instructor Training

The Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST)

Instructors are prepared through a 10-day Train-the-Trainer Program called the GreatEST Institute (Great Environmental Safety Training Institute) to deliver required certifications for public and private responders and workers including:

- 40-hour Waste Site Worker Health and Safety
- 24-hour Industrial Emergency Response
- DOT Haz Mat Awareness
- Confined Space Non Entry Rescue
- Hazard Awareness and Communication
- Disaster Site Worker Awareness

Applications can be found at <https://nationalpete.org/events/>. **February 28th was the last day to register for the Community and College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST)'s GreatEST Institute. If there are any remaining openings, they will accept applications past the registration deadline.**

PETE Instructor Professional Development Conferences

- April 23-25, 2019 – Northampton Community College, Bethlehem, PA
- July 16-18, 2019 – South Central College, North Mankato, MN

6. EWDJT GRANTEE EVENTS

Rural Alaska EWDJT celebrates RACEJT 2019 Graduation

RACEJT 2019 Graduation

The Rural Alaska Community Environmental Job Training Program
We Are Excited to Celebrate Hard Work and a Degree Well Earned



Join us in joyful celebration at the Anchorage, April 3, 2019
Sheraton Hotel, Summit Room (401 E 6th Ave)
5 – 7 pm

The Rural Alaska Community Environmental Job Training program celebrates and supports the hard work that the RACEJT crew has accomplished this year. They have worked hard and are excited to begin using their new skills to help keep their communities and families healthier through environmental technician work.

We hope you can join us! Please share this with anyone you feel would be interested in joining us in this celebration.

April Reed-McCoy, MS

RACEJT, Program Manager

Rural Alaska Community Environmental Job Training program

Zender Environmental Health and Research Group

Tel: (907) 277-2111

Cell: (907) 717-4754

(free call for rural Alaska GCI cell phones)

Fax (efax): 1-877-335-6780

Email: areed@zendergroup.org

Address: 400 D St, Suite 200

Anchorage, AK 99501

Are you interested in contacting current environmental workforce development and job training grantees? EWDJT grantees are happy to assist other grantees and prospective applicants to share their experiences with interested organizations. Contact information is available from the [2018 All Grantee Meeting participant list](#).

New and Refunded Grantees	Region	State	FY Award
Alaska Forum, Inc.	10	AK	2016, 2018
Auberle	3	PA	2016
Civic Works, Inc.	3	MD	2016, 2018
Cypress Mandela Training Center, Inc.	9	CA	2016
Earth Conservancy	3	PA	2017
Energy Coordinating Agency	3	PA	2016
Essex County Division of Training and Employment	2	NJ	2018
Florida State College at Jacksonville	4	FL	2017
Fortune Society, Inc., The	2	NY	2017
Full Employment Council, Inc.	7	MO	2018
Glens Falls, City of	2	NY	2016
Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps, Inc.	5	WI	2017
Groundwork Rhode Island	1	RI	2018
Hunters Point Family	9	CA	2018
King County	10	WA	2018
Lawson State Community College	4	AL	2016
Limitless Vistas, Inc.	6	LA	2016, 2018
Los Angeles Conservation Corps	9	CA	2016, 2018
Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board	1	MA	2017
Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, Waterbury	1	CT	2016
Nye County	9	NV	2016
OAI, Inc.	5	IL	2017
Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.	10	OR	2017
PathStone Corporation	2	PR	2017
People United for Sustainable Housing, Inc.	2	NY	2017
Pittsburg, City of	9	CA	2016, 2018
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	10	WA	2016
RecycleForce	5	IN	2018
Redevelopment Authority of Cumberland County	3	PA	2016
Richmond, City of (California)	9	CA	2017
Rochester, City of (New York)	2	NY	2016
Salish Kootenai College	8	MT	2017
Santa Fe Community College	6	NM	2017
Springfield, City of (Missouri)	7	MO	2016, 2018
St. Louis Community College	7	MO	2017
St. Nicks Alliance	2	NY	2018
Sustainable South Bronx	2	NY	2018
Tacoma, City of	10	WA	2016, 2018
The Hunters Point Family	9	CA	2016
Training to Work an Industry Niche	4	NC	2018
West End Neighborhood House, Inc.	3	DE	2018
Zender Environmental Health and Research Group	10	AK	2017

[Map of EPA Regions](#)

7. RESOURCES

NIEHS Curricula Catalog

The National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training is a national resource for hazardous waste worker curricula, technical reports, and weekly news on hazardous materials, waste operations, and emergency response. Funded by the NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP), the National Clearinghouse provides technical assistance to WTP staff, program awardees, and the general public.

Check out the [Curricula Catalog Advanced Search Form](#). For more information on the resources available from the National Clearinghouse, please view our [Training Resources Fact Sheet](#)

Educator Resources

[EarthEcho International's Educator Resources](#) are a collection of videos, lesson plans, and other materials designed to support high-quality classroom experiences. They are unique tools to assist educators as they equip young people to explore and protect their local natural resources. Many of the resources are designed to satisfy Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.:

Don't see what you're looking for? Email us at education@earthecho.org and we will see what we can do to help you.

Subscribe to TechDirect

[TechDirect](#)'s purpose is to identify new technical, policy and guidance resources related to the assessment and remediation of contaminated soil, sediments and groundwater. Anyone interested in subscribing may do so on [CLU-IN.org](#). All previous issues of TechDirect are archived there. The TechDirect messages of the past can be searched by keyword or can be viewed as individual issues

8. BROWNFIELD CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND MEETINGS

BRIGHTFIELDS 2019 – VIRGINIA

April 9-10, 2019

Richmond, VA

Powering up greenfields, brownfields and landfills. Brightfields 2019 is a must-attend event for:

- landowners, property managers and communities interested in the development of solar energy on their land (rather than rooftops)
- solar developers seeking land for purchase or lease
- public and private sector professionals working in the solar space
- anyone motivated towards developing greenfields, greyfields, brownfields, landfills and Superfund sites into solar power generating assets
- anyone seeking to learn more about the application of solar power production onto the land

Washington State Brownfields Conference

May 29 – 30, 2019

Spokane, WA

Cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields is key to local economic development efforts, and turning perceived problems into community assets, such as affordable housing. The goal of this conference is to bring together public and private sector stakeholders from across Washington State and the Inland Northwest to share information on brownfields redevelopment successes and future opportunities.

[4th Annual NYS Redevelopment Summit - Pathways to Revitalization](#)

June 11, 2019

Albany, NY

Join fellow redevelopment professionals and practitioners for comprehensive learning and extensive networking focused on solving challenges and creating opportunities for economic revitalization through land reuse. Sponsorships and scholarships are available. Please contact Jean Hamerman (jean.hamerman@cclr.org) for more information.

[2019 West Virginia Brownfields Conference](#)

September 10-12, 2019

Morgantown, WV

The WV Brownfields Conference & Main Street/ON TRAC Training is West Virginia's premier redevelopment event that combines educational programs with networking opportunities between communities, local governments, development professionals, and service providers. The conference features expert panels, interactive workshops, technical training, and project case studies.

The Conference Planning Committee is currently seeking mobile workshop and breakout session ideas to fill limited slots for the 2019 Conference in Morgantown, WV on September 10-12. We are looking for session ideas focused on downtown development, remediation and site preparation strategies, re-use planning approaches, and redevelopment funding opportunities. Creative session formats, such as town hall or roundtable discussions and interactive workshops, as well as traditional panel presentations, are encouraged.

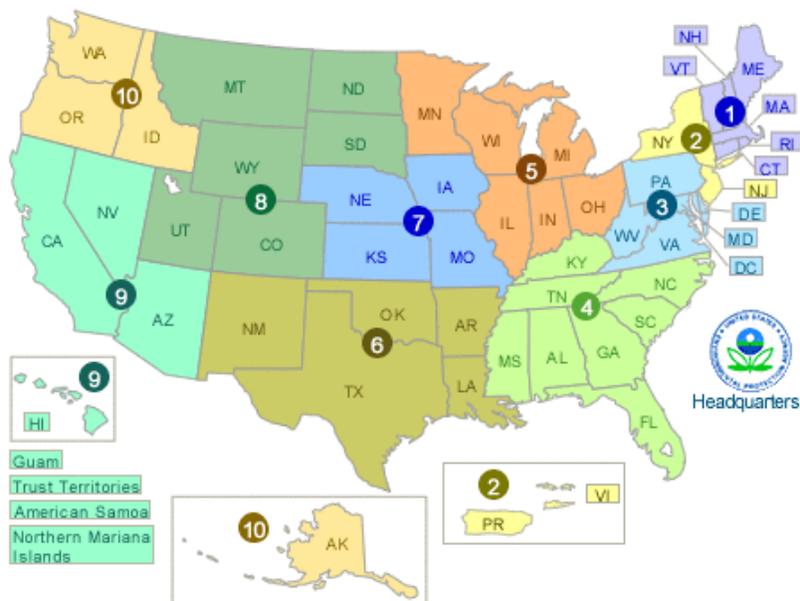
9. EPA REGIONAL JOB TRAINING COORDINATORS

EPA Region 1 Danny Rodriguez	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	Phone: (617) 918-1060 E-mail: rodriguez.danny@epa.gov
EPA Region 2 Schenine Mitchell	NJ, NY, PR, VI	Phone: (212) 637-3283 E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
EPA Region 3 Gianna Rosati	DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	Phone: (215) 814-3406 E-mail: rosati.gianna@epa.gov
EPA Region 4 Wanda Jennings	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	Phone: (404) 562-8682 E-mail: jennings.wanda@epa.gov
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EPA Region 5 Craig Mankowski		Phone: (312) 886-9493 E-mail: mankowski.craig@epa.gov
EPA Region 6 Rita Ware	AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	Phone: (214) 665-6409 E-mail: ware.rita@epa.gov
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EPA Region 9 Nova Blazej	AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU	Phone: (415) 972-3846 E-mail: blazej.nova@epa.gov
EPA Region 9 Noemi Emeric-Ford		Phone: (213) 244-1821 E-mail: meric-ford.noemi@epa.gov

EPA Region 10 Deborah Burgess	AK, ID, OR, WA	Phone: (206) 553-2580 E-mail: burgess.deborah@epa.gov
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Map of EPA Regions

Credit: epa.gov



10. FUTURE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY (PLC) CALLS

Missed a few of our PLC sessions? Post session notes are available on the [Brownfields Toolbox](#).

Cycle 20 – Upcoming 2019 environmental workforce PLC discussions

4/10/2019	Session 209	5/8/2019	Session 211
4/24/2019	Session 210	5/22/2019	Session 212

Tune into the next PLC call - **Wednesday, April 10, 2019.**

Join our 30-minute discussion with EPA EWDJT grantees, alumni and new interested stakeholders. PLCs give grantees a chance to highlight their programs and an opportunity for others to learn from their experience. For questions or to be placed on the PLC register, send your contact information to hkballou@eicc.edu.

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Heather Ballou at hkballou@eicc.edu.

Visit our [HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox](#) website for more information on Brownfields Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training programs. All [PLC session notes and recordings](#) are also located on the website. For those interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Heather Ballou at hkballou@eicc.edu.

NOTE: The PLC brings together ideas and opinions of individuals interested in environmental workforce development and job training. Ideas and opinions are not those of EPA or its policy and should not be taken as official guidance.