

JOB TRAINING PROGRAM



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA A FORCE FOR CHANGE IN BROWNFIELDS IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

The vision statement for Southern University at Shreveport Louisiana's (SUSLA) Division of Community and Workforce Development (CWD) is "To Empower People and Communities through Education and Training that will Affect A Positive Change." The CWD understands that traditional learning may not be the path for some living in their community. Therefore, SUSLA actively sought a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield's Job Training grant and was awarded a \$199,999 grant in September 2008 .



HAZWOPER Training in Progress

Although the grant awarded in 2008 is the most recent, it is not the full story of the SUSLA Brownfields Job Training program. Its history dates back as early as 2001 when the City of Shreveport received a grant and chose SUSLA to conduct and manage the training. CWD proposed to train and graduate 48 students and they trained 45, meeting 94% of their goal. In 2005, following Hurricane Katrina, the City received a non-competitive EPA Brownfields job

training award in the amount of \$200,000 to assist those who relocated to the Shreveport area to obtain training for the cleanup and redevelopment of the hurricane devastated area. They proposed to train and graduate 32 and trained 35. They met their goals in one of the most challenging times for that community.

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In 2006, SUSLA received their first Job Training grant. The University's CWD proposed to train 36 students, place at least 30 graduates in environmental jobs, and track graduates for one year. They conducted six eight-week training courses in HAZWOPER, hazardous material, first responder, asbestos, lead, chemical spill, confined space, innovative technology, and mold worker training. The students were recruited from disenfranchised, economically disadvantaged communities with high unemployment rates and residents who lacked job skills. They continued to reach out to those relocated by providing job training and placement. SUSLA trained 42 and graduated 38. SUSLA was also selected for their most recent grant awarded in September 2008 in the amount of \$199,999. SUSLA plans to train 37 students, place 31 graduates in environmental jobs, and track them for one year using the previous successful class model. Three area employers have expressed interest in partnering with SUSLA and hiring trained graduates. To date, they have trained 21 and graduated 18.



How does SUSLA successfully achieve their goals? First, SUSLA obtained information and tools that the local area needs to carry out their responsibilities in connection with assessment and cleanup of Brownfields properties. Secondly, they actively recruited trainees from Brownfields-impacted communities. Finally, cooperation and responsibility contribute to the overall success of the Brownfields program. The University's affirmation of dedication is shaped by the following core values: quality, integrity, empowerment, professionalism, learning, evaluation, discovery, customer service and growth. For more information, contact Yolanda H. Gilyard, SUSLA Program Manager, 318-670-6673.