

Workforce development as outreach for surveyors

Through a collaborative initiative between Earth Conservancy (EC), Penn State Wilke-Barre Surveying faculty and Continuing Education were awarded a grant toward U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) program. The objective was implementing a new job training program called Environmental Workforce Training (EWT) Program for local unemployed, underemployed residents and especially veterans in the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton metro area.

The EWT Program provides a comprehensive and realistic curriculum to participants seeking to enter an environmentally-oriented surveying career. The entire program consists of 205 contact hours over the course of 2½ months. Courses offered are; Introduction to Brownfields, OSHA 10-Hour Safety Training, 40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Training, AutoCAD Level I, Surveying Field Assistant, Basic Land Surveying Techniques, Geographic Information System (GIS) for Resource Conservation and First Aid/CPR/AED. Upon graduation, participants gained skills and certifications that can lead to exciting careers in engineering, construction, remediation, environmental cleanup, and more. Curriculum, outcomes and impact of EWT will be addressed and discussed in this paper.