

## **Kansas City Metropolitan Brownfields Job Training Program Graduates First Training Class**

On Monday, March 15th, graduates of the first training cycle of the Kansas City Metropolitan EPA ARRA Brownfields Job Training Partnership will receive the certificates they have earned at a Graduation Ceremony held at the Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 Office Building at 5th and Minnesota Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas.

On March 4th, the Kansas City Council passed a resolution congratulating the trainees for their hard work in the course of the training. The Graduation Ceremony brings closure to the first training cycle.

The Kansas City Metropolitan EPA ARRA Brownfields Job Training Partnership is a three-year program to train unemployed and underemployed individuals in the Kansas City metropolitan area for careers in environmental remediation and energy conservation. The partnership is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency through economic stimulus funds. OAI, Inc. is the lead applicant in the Brownfields Job Training Partnership.

This Partnership brought together: Era Environmental & Safety, the Metropolitan Community Colleges, the City of Kansas City, MO, the City of Independence, MO, the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council and Connections to Success to train an initial cadre of 26 individuals in environmental remediation. The partnership is distinctive for:

- linking organizations together across municipal lines to provide recruitment, training and placement services in the regional economy
- building the organizational infrastructure, resources and workforce to expand the green economy in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

The certifications that the graduates have earned include:

- 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER)
- 10 hour OSHA Construction Safety
- 40-hour Asbestos Supervisor
- 40-hour Lead Supervisor
- 8-hour First Aid/CPR
- 8-hour Blueprint Reading
- 16-hour Mold Remediation

Karl Brooks, Ph.D., the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 7 will be the keynote speaker at the Graduation Ceremony. In addition to the graduates and their families, we expect Kansas City Council representatives and numerous partner agencies to attend.