

Weatherization Training Center Success Story: Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) Green Jobs Alliance (GJA), Virginia



Our Story:

In September 2010, Department of Energy Weatherization Training Center grant DE-EE 00003786 was awarded to the Hampton Roads-based Green Jobs Alliance to establish a Weatherization Training Center with Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) Workforce Training and Continuing Education as a key partner. The training and employment pipeline includes information sessions conducted at the college and at recruiting partner sites and Work Keys assessments for the Governor's Career Readiness Certificate (and time in the key train tutorial lab as needed). As of fall 2012, it includes five non-credit courses.

The Weatherization Training Center supports the need of local governments to assess and evaluate low-income weatherization projects and for contractors to evaluate effectiveness of renovation or retrofitting for homeowners to qualify for energy incentive funding.

Our Courses:

Weatherization Basics (using Department of Energy curriculum)	Building Performance Institute (BPI) Certified Whole House Air Leakage Control Installer	Building Analyst Boot Camp (new in February 2012)
BPI-Certified Building Analyst (home energy auditor)	OSHA-10	

Achievements:

- We have benefited Virginia by
 - enrolling more than 260 individuals in 390 classes over 22 months.
 - hiring four part-time staff during the grant period to handle details of curriculum development, tracking of students, training, testing, logistics, program compliance, and reporting.
 - adding employment support opportunities such as the Green Jobs Fair, held in July 2012, which drew 20 employers and 130 job seekers, and directly resulted in the hiring of participants. So far, about 25 of our



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trainees are employed—nearly 10%—which does not include any of the contractors or their staff members that were already employed when we trained them.

- For the course offerings listed above, the Installer classes have been offered monthly and the Building Analyst sequence offered every other month.
- In addition to those courses, challenge exams are available for experienced workers from the construction industry or local Weatherization Assistance Programs to reduce their time from training to work. Flyers describing the programs and scholarships are posted on the college website:
<http://tncc.edu/business-community/workforce-development/continuing-education/>
- We have recently met with staff at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to better understand how our location in Southeastern Virginia can assist them in meeting their statewide mission.
- A representative of Dominion Power has recently been added to the Green Jobs Alliance Board of Directors, and conversations have begun regarding initiatives that could be supported by utility rates.
- Unique aspects of our Weatherization Training Center include the following:
 - the participation of industry, unions, and community organizations on the GJA Board
 - collaboration among the GJA partners for recruitment, outreach, training, and job placement
 - the production of mini-videos for posting on partner websites to give interested persons a view of weatherization jobs, the Green Jobs Alliance partners, the future of weatherization and impact on neighborhoods, employer perspectives, and samples of training classes and fieldwork
- Having a weatherization training program has
 - allowed workforce development to play a key role in TNCC's new college-wide Sustainability Committee.
 - fostered a close working relationship with college financial, purchasing, and facilities staffs as we work together to find appropriate construction materials for the weatherization tasks. When the college renovated our office and classroom building to LEED Silver standards, we understood the depth and breadth of that achievement.
- TNCC has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Virginia Weatherization Training Center and will revise our classes to match its curriculum that has been approved by the State WAP staff. This will allow our center to be eligible to train additional Weatherization Assistance Program staff and access training scholarships from the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy.
- Green Jobs Alliance has just been approved as a certified BPI Test Center, strengthening our capabilities to serve this part of Virginia.



*Weatherization
Works*

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- We are working on market rate pricing for our classes and testing services and will be reaching out to additional contractors in the future. The contractors approved for state-funded WAP weatherization work for low-income residents were offered training scholarships as part of our current program.