



For Immediate Release  
December 19, 2012  
Newark, NJ

## **NJISJ Announces Metro Newark Brownfields Training Program Graduation**

NEWARK, NJ- December 11, 2012. The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice is pleased to announce the graduation of its second Metro Newark Brownfields Training Program class to be held on **Tuesday, December 11 at 5:30pm** at New Jersey Historical Society.

Michael DeFrancisci, Executive Director Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, will serve as commencement speaker. Mr. DeFrancisci, a Newark native, served for over thirty years in the law enforcement community and most recently served as the Assistant Deputy of Enforcement for the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, Division of Consumer Affairs. Additionally, Kenneth Lucianin, the Commissioner of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, will deliver remarks and introduce the commencement speaker.

Cornell William Brooks, President and CEO of NJISJ, said "Amidst an uneven, uncertain and unrealized recovery, this graduation is a first step through a doorway of opportunity for men and women willing to work. With the recent devastation experienced by victims of Super Storm Sandy and the economic and environmental issues left in its wake, we are now more aware than ever of the growth potential in this field."

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. Funded by a \$200,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Metro Newark Brownfields Training Program offers 14 weeks of training in academic and job readiness instruction with technical skills instruction to prepare participants for state licensure and employment in the field of environmental remediation. The coursework includes HAZWOPER, lead abatement, asbestos removal, OSHA health and safety, confined space and brownfields issues.

A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. With the technical training and certifications this program provides, our traditionally hard-to-employ participants have a real opportunity to earn a living wage and begin a lifelong career.

The EPA has selected the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ) for a job training grant. NJISJ plans to train 87 students, place at least 53 graduates in environmental technician jobs, and

track students for one year.

*For additional information, please contact Scott Nolen, Equal Justice and Communications Director, at 973-624-9400, Ext. 32, or at [snolen@njisj.org](mailto:snolen@njisj.org).*

\*\*\*\*\*