

**For Immediate Release:**

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**CAU's Environmental Justice Resource Center 2011 Spring Graduation:  
Promoting Success One Student at a Time**

Atlanta, GA - On Monday, June 27, after six weeks of intensive studying and hands-on training, it was time to celebrate a journey well travelled for the 22 graduates of the Workers Education and Training Program. Instructors, collaborative and community partners gathered at Copeland's Restaurant to break bread and reflect on challenges met and goals obtained. Through testimonials, it was obvious to everyone, that this was a life changing experience. Several participants, who had been chronically unemployed, believe that they now have the skills and support system necessary for them to achieve success.

Participants received instructions through a unique long-distance learning initiative between Clark Atlanta University's Environmental Justice Resource Center and Dillard University's Deep South Center for Environmental Justice Center. The program was funded by the Department of Labor as part of their green jobs focus. Classes in Atlanta, New Orleans and Detroit were instructed online through Adobe connect. Students also gained valuable skills in the work lab, during exciting Hazmat simulations and renovating a house intended for a returning veteran with *Rebuilding Together*. Upon graduation they received certification in OSHA 30, First Aid/CPR, HAZMAT (40 hrs), green construction/weatherization and Asbestos Abatement.

For many, the icing on the cake was the presence of Dr. Robert D. Bullard. Both motivating and inspiring, students were thrilled to meet him and share their stories. Even more exciting, more than half of the class is lined up for jobs! As the program gears up for the next session, the phone is ringing off the hook. The word is out; we are about creating opportunities for individuals to empower themselves and their community.

**List of graduates:**

Ralph Armstrong-Jones

Tamir Chester

Kenneth Creech

Robert Currie

Anthony Curtis

Tyler Favors

TataNisha Frazier

Demirus George

Joshua Henderson

Quinton Jackson

Martin Kuykendall

Dwayne Leverette

James Mallory

Gwen Marshall

Derick Mitchell

Robert Moody

Joseph Reyes

Bobby Rucker

Shawn Stembridge

Ella Thompson

Sharon Turner

Bruce Tye

**List of Collaborative Partners:**

**Goodwill of North Georgia**

**Center for Working Families**

**Transition House, Inc.**

**List of Community Partners:**

**Center for Sustainable Communities**

**Fire Chiefs Long, Askew & Duncan (Retired Atlanta Fire Department)**

**Newport Integrated Behavioral, Inc.**

**Rebuilding America**