

**LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Lawson State Receives EPA Workforce Development and Job Training Grant**

**BIRMINGHAM, Alabama** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded \$3.5 million in Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grants today and Lawson State Community College, the only grantee in Alabama, was one of 18 selected nationwide. The grantees are from varying agencies and organizations, hugely governmental, and will receive funds to prepare residents from solid and waste-impacted communities to work in the environmental field.

"We are delighted to have opportunity to train students, place graduates, as well as qualify them for certifications in environmental jobs. The training program will target unemployed and underemployed residents to help with the assessment and clean-up of identified areas of the Brownfields sites," said Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State Community College. "Furthermore, this program will serve as a major advancement to workforce development and job training as we work to impact the needs of our greater community."

"This is outstanding news for Lawson State, the City of Birmingham and local communities pursuing environmental justice for their areas," said Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell (AL-07). "This project will provide the necessary training for communities to not only address remediation of contamination, but also provide needed jobs skills for local students. This grant reflects the extraordinary outcomes possible when our stellar two-year colleges work in partnership with entities like the EPA to help transform communities."

The Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program has expanded its efforts to now provide enhanced training in the environmental field, in addition to the traditional brownfields hazardous waste and petroleum training. According to the Brownfields 2016 Job Training Grant Fact Sheet, "graduates develop wider skill sets that improve their ability to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environment field, including water quality improvement and chemical safety."

Lawson State plans to train 60 students and minimally place 50 graduates in environmental jobs through a core training programs that includes 240 hours of instruction in HAZWOPER,

environmental sampling, OSHA construction safety, mold and asbestos remediation, first aid/CPR and lead renovation, repair and painting.

For more information and a list of the new awards, please see

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-18-grants-environmental-workforce-development-and-job-training>.

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#### **ABOUT LAWSON STATE**

***Lawson State Community College – host to President Barack Obama (March 2015); ranked the Nation’s #5 Community College (2013); recognized as a “Champion of Change” by the White House (2011); ranked as one of “America’s 50 Best Community Colleges.” (2010)***

*Lawson State Community College, with campuses in Birmingham and Bessemer, seeks to provide accessible, quality educational opportunities, promote economic growth, and enhance the quality of life for students. The college is dedicated to providing affordable and accessible lifelong learning opportunities in order to prepare students for employment and career advancement, enable students to transfer to senior colleges and universities, and provide customized training needs for business and industry.*

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