

## Director's Note

**OSBP has continued to make progress in** linking Minority Academic Institutions (MAIs) with EPA in a variety of capacities. The renewed focus on domestic improvements via funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 has further strengthened this effort. I am proud of the support that EPA offers these institutions, their student bodies, faculty, and staff.

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that a son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another." This is a testament to the rationale for the MAI Program and reminds us of the importance of supporting education for the most disadvantaged among us.

In this installment of the OSBP newsletter, we focus on new developments, including a new MAI Coordinator at EPA and two key appointments by President Obama in the education sector. We also report on a new initiative directed by President Obama, the creation of an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, which promises hope for the future health of water, one of our nation's most precious natural resources.

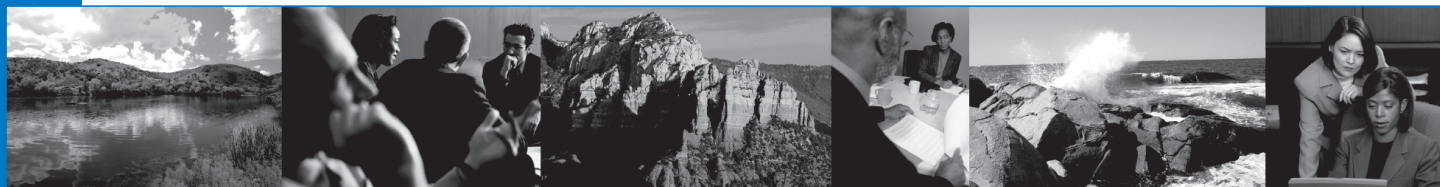
We then examine some direct impact programs, funding opportunities via ARRA legislation, and two innovative EPA projects recently implemented that are certain to increase the opportunities for scholars interested in science and technology. Finally, we reflect on conference opportunities that offered professional development and networking opportunities for national, state, and local officials, academicians, individuals, nonprofits, businesses, and other top leaders.

In over 30 years of contracting experience, I have witnessed advancements that have afforded minority small businesses and MAIs new opportunities for growth in an increasingly competitive market. I hope that you will enjoy reading about some of the latest progress in this newsletter.

Read and Reflect,  
Jeanette L. Brown, Director  
Office of Small Business Development

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## New Minority Academic Institutions (MAI) Coordinator at EPA



Julie C. Taitt has succeeded Jonathan Newton as Coordinator for the Minority Academic Institutions Program within the Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As Coordinator, Ms. Taitt is responsible for ensuring that minority academic institutions are provided an equitable opportunity to participate in Federal programs. The MAI Program works to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaskan Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Institutions. Additionally, the MAI Program works to integrate MAIs into the work of the Agency in various capacities.

The Coordinator uses OSBP's outreach resources to: 1) assess compliance with executive order authority for MAI programs; 2) identify best practices within the Agency for partnering with MAIs; 3) establish measurable goals for partnership with MAIs; 4) coordinate partnerships with Small Business and; 5) provide assistance through education and outreach.

Prior to accepting her current position, Ms. Taitt served as the Acting Deputy Director for Administration and Resource Management in the

Office of Enforcement and Compliance and as the Division Director for the Information Management Division in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations. Additionally, Ms. Taitt worked for EPA's Office of Acquisition Management as a Policy Analyst and as an Acquisition Trainer. Prior to her tenure at EPA, Ms. Taitt worked as a Procurement Analyst for the Department of Treasury and as a Contracts Administrator for the Department of Defense.

Ms. Taitt has a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in business administration and a master's degree in education.

## White House Makes Two Key Appointments



President Obama recently appointed John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., Ed.D, as the executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Juan Sepúlveda was also appointed as director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

### Dr. Wilson Chosen to Lead HBCU Initiative

As executive director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs, Dr. Wilson will work with the presidentially appointed HBCU Board of Advisors and assist the Secretary as liaison between

the executive branch and HBCUs. He also will work with 32 federal agencies that support HBCUs through Federal grants and contracts.

“This is a superb appointment. As a graduate of Morehouse College, John Wilson knows well the contributions, strengths and heritage of our nation’s HBCUs,” said Dr. Michael L. Lomax, president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). In this position, he can now play a central role in ensuring that these institutions are strengthened in their capacity to help us all meet the challenging goal that President Obama has set—that America will regain its position as the number one nation in the world in producing college graduates.”

Wilson has been an associate professor of higher education at George Washington University (GWU) since 2006, when he took research leave as executive dean of GWU’s Virginia campus, a post he has held since 2002.

He joined the staff at GWU in 2001 to help develop a strategic plan for the university. Previously he spent 16 years at MIT, where he served as director of foundation relations and assistant provost. Wilson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College, a Master of Theological Studies degree from Harvard University and both a master’s and doctoral degrees in educational administration, planning, and social policy from Harvard University.

Source: <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2009/07/07172009b.html>

## Juan Sepúlveda Selected to Lead Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans

Mr. Juan Sepúlveda was appointed by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on May 19, 2009, to the position of director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. In this capacity, he is responsible for directing the efforts of the White House Initiative in engaging Hispanic students, parents, families, organizations, and anyone working in or with the

education system in communities nationwide as active participants in improving the academic achievement of Hispanic Americans.

Mr. Sepúlveda has a long history of visionary leadership. For the last 20 years, he has been a senior executive, strategist, and advocate in the nonprofit and philanthropic communities, with a focus in community development, capacity building, and transformational management. Prior to assuming his current position at the Department of Education, Sepúlveda was president of The Common Enterprise (TCE), which he founded in 1995 as an outgrowth of a national Rockefeller Foundation initiative to help build stronger communities across America by making nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, governments, businesses, and communities more effective as they tackled significant critical social issues in more than 35 states and nationally.



Since 2004, Sepúlveda has been the host of the weekly KLRN public television series “Conversations,” focused on the people and organizations making positive and innovative contributions to communities in San Antonio, South Texas, and the U.S.

Having grown up in a working class Mexican-American neighborhood in Topeka, Kan., Sepúlveda has been involved in community organizing and politics since the age of 16. He worked closely with the late Willie Velasquez and the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. In 2004, he completed a political biography of



Willie and an organizational history of Southwest Voter, *The Life and Times of Willie Velasquez—Su Voto Es Su Voz (Your Vote is Your Voice)*.

Sepúlveda received a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard University. The third Latino ever to be awarded a Rhodes scholarship, he graduated with a combined degree in politics, philosophy, and economics from the Queens College of Oxford University. He received a J.D. from Stanford University and has been admitted to the Texas Bar.

Source: <http://www.ed.gov/news/staff/bios/sepulveda.html>

## The White House Ocean Initiative



President Obama recognizes that we have a responsibility to protect our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes for the benefit of current and future generations. To ensure that the Federal Government is meeting this responsibility, the President established the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force on June 12, 2009. The Task Force, led by the White House Council on Environmental Quality, is comprised of 24 senior-level policy officials from across the Federal Government.

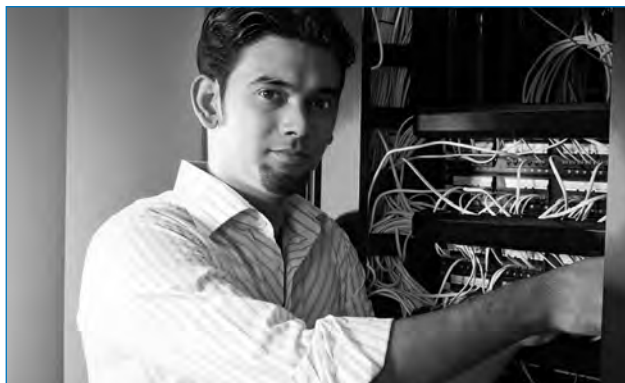
The Task Force is charged with developing a recommendation for a national policy that ensures protection, maintenance, and restoration of oceans, our coasts and the Great Lakes. It will also recommend a framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning. The recommendations and frameworks developed by the Task Force will be cost effective and improve coordination across Federal Agencies. The Chair will terminate the Task Force upon the completion of its duties.

The Task Force undertook a robust public engagement process to hear from and involve stakeholders and interested parties, including holding regional public meetings, convening over 35 expert briefings, and receiving hundreds of comments via the internet.

The Task Force has made its Interim Report available for public review online. This report provides proposals for a comprehensive national approach to uphold our stewardship responsibilities and ensure accountability for our actions. Additionally, the report outlines a more balanced, productive and sustainable approach to our ocean resources. On December 14, 2009, President Obama's Ocean Policy Task Force released its Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (Interim Framework) for a 60-day public review and comment period. With competing interests in the ocean, our coasts and the Great Lakes, the Interim Framework offers a comprehensive, integrated approach to planning and managing uses and activities. Under the Framework, coastal and marine spatial planning would be regional in scope, developed cooperatively among Federal, State, tribal, local authorities, and regional governance structures, with substantial stakeholder and public input.

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/interim-framework>

## Funding Opportunities



Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, Congress appropriated approximately \$7.2 billion for the implementation of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP). Minority Academic Institutions are encouraged to apply for these opportunities. More details about these programs can be found at <http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/> and <http://www.broadband.gov/>.

Additional funding opportunities and guidance for MAIs are posted regularly on <http://www.grants.gov> and <http://www.cfda.gov>.

## RecycleMania



Banner at Buffalo State

*RecycleMania*, a ten week competition among college campuses across the United States and Canada, evolved from EPA's WasteWise Program. Its goal is to heighten the awareness of schools' waste management and recycling programs throughout

North America by encouraging fair and friendly competition among colleges and universities.

Through the participation of students, faculty and staff, *RecycleMania* aims to expand economic opportunities while addressing environmental issues in a positive way and seeks to lower the amount of waste generated on-campus by reducing, reusing and recycling. Over the years, *RecycleMania* has motivated successful competitions by building upon the inherent nature of friendly rivalries.

In the 2009, only 27 of the 515 schools who participated were MAIs. In an effort to increase minority participation, the MAI staff has promoted the program at conferences and workshops.

*RecycleMania* 2010 starts on January 17 and continues through March 27. Over this 10-week period, schools report recycling and trash data. Campuses are ranked according to who collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate. With each week's reports and rankings, participating schools can compare their results against other schools and use the results to encourage their campus to reduce and recycle more.

Additional details about *RecycleMania* can be found at <http://www.recyclemaniacs.org>.

## EPA/OSBP Mission

To support the protection of human health and the environment by advocating and advancing the business, regulatory, and environmental compliance concerns of small and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses, and minority academic institutions.

## EPA Develops Partnerships for a Stronger Future



There is an increasing need for well-trained, qualified professionals in science, technology, policy, and law to provide the capacity to fill the growing number of environmental positions. Simultaneously, the number of students, particularly minorities, electing to pursue the science and engineering majors, which provide the technical groundwork for these positions, is decreasing. The Federal Government and institutions of higher learning are working together to develop innovative strategies to assure an adequate supply of highly trained, technical personnel.

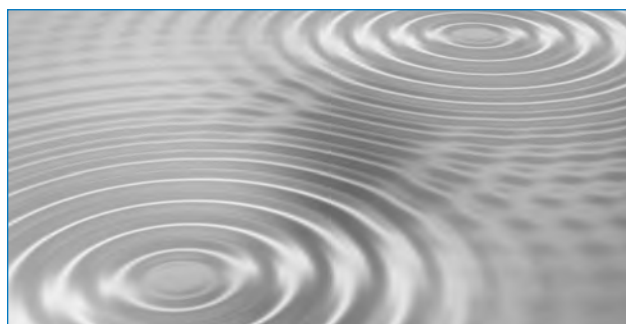
### Alabama A&M Watershed Project

Alabama A&M University (AAMU), the first Historically Black College or University, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) entered into partnership on January 28, 2009 to establish a Center of Excellence for Watershed Management. AAMU President, Dr. Beverly Edmond, subsequently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) during a ceremony on January 29, 2009, at the University's Agricultural Research Center.

According to ADEM Director, Trey Glenn, "Alabama has tremendous water resources and the Department's mission is to ensure those resources are protected for today's citizens and

future generations. We are confident that this new partnership with AAMU will allow all parties to leverage our resources and focus our efforts to protect water quality in Alabama."

Created in 2007, the EPA Region 4 Centers of Excellence for Watershed Management Program works with colleges and universities from across the southeast to provide hands-on, practical products and services for communities to identify watershed problems and solve them. Each EPA designated Center actively seeks out watershed-based stakeholder groups and local governments that need cost effective tools for watershed scientific studies, engineering designs and computer mapping, as well as assistance with legal issues, project management, public education and planning.



To become a recognized Center of Excellence, the institution must demonstrate the following: expertise in identifying and addressing watershed needs; involvement of students, staff and faculty in watershed research; capability to involve the full suite of disciplines needed for all aspects of watershed management; financial ability to become self-sustaining; ability to deliver and account for results; willingness to partner with other institutions; and support from the highest levels of the organization.

Some of the benefits of being a recognized Center of Excellence include: receipt of EPA technical assistance where needed (instructors, speakers, etc); promotion of the Center of Excellence to stakeholders; EPA letters of support for grant opportunities; and identification of opportunities for Center of Excellence involvement in local and regional watershed issues.



For decades, EPA and ADEM have protected Alabama's lakes, rivers and wetlands by regulating specific points of pollution; the most common of these being sewage treatment plants and factories. Although this approach led to the successful cleanup of many waterways, others still remain polluted from sources not as easily regulated. These more subtle sources include farms, streets, parking lots, lawns, rooftops or any other surfaces that come in contact with rainwater. Today, EPA and ADEM take a broader approach to water protection looking at both the individual waterway and the watershed in which it is located.

"Everyone lives in a watershed and at EPA we believe a watershed approach is the most effective framework to address today's water resource challenges," said EPA's Acting Regional Administrator, Stan Meiburg. "This designation will allow AAMU to continue developing the strong partnerships with other institutions, organizations and agencies required to protect and restore watersheds in northern Alabama."

## EPA Expands Outreach to Minority Students

*Administrator Jackson signs two MOUs to broaden the conversation on environmentalism*

On November 24, 2009, EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) designed to increase EPA's outreach to minority and underserved communities. The two MOUs signed by the Administrator, one with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and the other with the Vermont Law School, will facilitate the flow of information between EPA and minority communities and further the teaching of environmental issues at colleges that serve minority students.

"To end the disproportionate environmental, health and economic burdens on underserved communities, we must expand the conversation on environmentalism and invite new leaders into this movement," said EPA Administrator Lisa P.

Jackson. "The actions behind these MOUs will allow EPA to give a voice to communities that haven't had a voice in the past, and empower them to act on our nation's most pressing environmental issues. Fostering more diversity and inclusion throughout EPA will allow us to better serve the broad environmental and health needs of all Americans."



As part of the MOU signed with the Vermont Law School, the University has agreed to employ distance learning technology to give a wider range of students from Minority Academic Institutions access to its environmental law program. To read the Memorandum in its entirety, access it here: [http://www.epa.gov/osbp/pdfs/mai/mou\\_vermont.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/osbp/pdfs/mai/mou_vermont.pdf).

The Administrator also signed an MOU with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities that builds on EPA's relationship with the organization to make students and alumni aware of job opportunities at EPA. The Agency will also help Hispanic Serving Institutions develop environmental curriculum and give them greater access to EPA laboratories and facilities. The full length Memorandum is available online at [http://www.epa.gov/osbp/pdfs/mai/mou\\_hispanic.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/osbp/pdfs/mai/mou_hispanic.pdf).

**For additional information**, contact Deb Berlin, [berlin.deb@epa.gov](mailto:berlin.deb@epa.gov), 202-564-4914, 202-564-4355;

**Contacto en español:** Lina Younes, [younes.lina@epa.gov](mailto:younes.lina@epa.gov), 202-564-9924, 202-564-4355.

## EPA Conference Participation

**In an effort to raise the visibility of Agency programs,** EPA participates in conferences that support innovation and participation within minority communities. Two such conferences were recently attended and a third such conference is planned for 2010.

### LULAC Annual Conference for 2009

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) convened its 80th Annual LULAC National Convention & Exposition, *Reaching New Frontiers: Expanding the Latino Agenda*, in San Juan, Puerto Rico from July 13 through July 18, 2009. As one of the premier Hispanic convention, the LULAC National Convention drew over 15,000 participants including the top leaders from government, business, and the Hispanic community.



Pictured right to left: Brian Dominguez, Lisa Jackson, Westerly Foster, Michael Nieves and Tex Gomez at the 2009 LULAC Conference.

The current EPA Administrator, Lisa P. Jackson, was the keynote speaker at the partnership luncheon on July 15th. The partnership luncheon served to highlight LULAC's corporate and

government partnerships. EPA and LULAC have reaffirmed their ongoing partnership by extending an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to December 31, 2012, an initiative that will continue to support the Agency's overall diversity, education, recruitment and outreach efforts. Ms. Jackson also joined Puerto Rico Governor Luis Fortuño to announce that the Agency has awarded nearly \$72 million to Puerto Rico through the Recovery Act for overdue improvements to wastewater and drinking water systems and to conduct water quality planning essential to protecting human health and the environment across the island.

The LULAC Convention also hosted the Federal Training Institute (FTI), a structured intensive career development program for government and public sector employees. In partnership with the Office of Personnel Management and the United States Department of Agriculture, the FTI offered workshops that enable mid and senior level government employees to enhance their leadership competencies skills that develop the Executive Core Qualifications required for entry to the Senior Executive Service.

Source: <http://www.lulac.org/events/convention09>

### 2009 HBCU Week

Praising Black colleges for their historic role in instilling hope and expanding educational opportunity for African Americans, President Obama proclaimed August 30, 2009 to September 5, 2009 National Historically Black College and University Week. The new Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Dr. John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., hosted the 2009 National HBCU Week Conference. The event was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC from August 30, 2009 to September 2, 2009. The theme of the conference was *HBCUs: Seizing the Capacity to Thrive*.

Attended by students, faculty, presidents, chancellors, HBCU trustees, other officials, and



sponsors, the conference featured distinguished speakers from the U.S. Congress and various federal agencies. The keynote speaker at the Commemorative Dinner was delivered by the Honorable Arne Duncan, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. The conference recognized a variety of organizations for their support of the nation's HBCUs and awards were presented to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the institutions and society as a whole.

Source: <http://hbcu2009.betah.com>

## Minority Serving Institution Research Partnership Consortium (MSIRPC) Conference 2010

Morgan State University (MSU) is hosting a national conference entitled "Strengthening Research Productivity Through Networking, Collaborating and Partnerships". This is the fifth conference under the guidance of the Minority Serving Institutions Research Partnership Conference Consortium (MSIRPC) and the first to be held in the northeast region of the country. The conference is scheduled for **April 14–17, 2010** and will be hosted by MSU, Maryland's public urban university in Baltimore City. Prior successful conferences were held at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Jackson State University, University of Texas-Pan American and Dillard University. Selected key persons from these institutions are serving as advisors for the conference to be hosted by Morgan State University. The guest hotel is the Renaissance Baltimore Harbor Place hotel located at 202 E. Pratt St. in Baltimore, MD. More than 500 persons from targeted Minority Serving Institutions (Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions and Tribal Colleges and Universities) and other institutions of higher education are expected to attend the conference.

The purposes of the conference are to strengthen productive partnerships and collaborations in basic research, applied scientific research, technological developments, and learn more about



safeguarding the natural environment. The objectives are as follows: to create and expand participation of MSIs in programs of scientific disciplines important to the national security efforts of the nation; to create and expand participation of MSIs in programs of scientific disciplines; to provide workshops on grantsmanship and on contract preparation tailored to faculty; to provide a concurrent workshop focusing on rules, regulations and compliance issues, including export control issues for sponsored program administrators; to provide workshops on entrepreneurship and internships for undergraduate and graduate students; and to enhance awareness of funding opportunities from federal agencies.

**For more information**, email [sharronn.johnson@morgan.edu](mailto:sharronn.johnson@morgan.edu), [patricia.mines@morgan.edu](mailto:patricia.mines@morgan.edu), or [baiseythomas@verizon.net](mailto:baiseythomas@verizon.net).

**SAVE THE DATE April 14-17, 2010**  
**for this national conference opportunity!**

## Request for Publications

To have additional publications delivered to you, visit <http://www.epa.gov/sadqfzsu/request.htm>, and fill out the contact information form. The following publications are currently available:

- Doing Business With EPA
- Mentor Protege Program
- Forecast for Contract Opportunities

# Small Business Vendor Profile System (SBVPS)

The OSBP Small Business Vendor Profile System contains information on number of small and disadvantaged companies that have registered with this office. The information is provided by the individual companies. The intended purpose of this database is to aid large prime contractors to find small and disadvantaged companies to team with the conduction of their business endeavors. The SBVPS is located below and can also be found on the U.S. EPA web site at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/sbvps/>.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_

City\*: \_\_\_\_\_ State\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Internet Address: \_\_\_\_\_

NAICS Code(s)\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Capabilities: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you done business with the EPA before?\* ☐ No ☐ Yes, as a Prime ☐ Yes, as a Subcontractor

## Classification

☐ Large

☐ Mid-Size

☐ Small

☐ SDB

☐ Small WOB

☐ 8(a) Certified

☐ Service Disabled Veteran

☐ HUBZone

☐ HBCU

☐ HSI

☐ Tribal College/University

☐ Other Minority

## Tribal

☐ Federally Recognized

☐ State Recognized

## Ethnicity

☐ African American

☐ Asian-Indian

☐ Asian-Pacific

☐ Caucasian American  
Female

☐ Hispanic

☐ Native American

☐ Other Minority

☐ None

The fields marked by \* are required and must be filled in.

# OSBP Employee Contact List

<b>Jeanette L. Brown</b> , <i>Director</i>	(202) 566-2075	brown.jeanettel@epa.gov
<b>Kimberly Y. Patrick</b> , <i>Deputy Director</i>	(202) 566-2605	patrick.kimberly@epa.gov
<b>Joan B. Rogers</b> , <i>SBO Team Lead</i>	(202) 564-6568	rogers.joanb@epa.gov
<b>Lester C. Facey</b> , <i>Program Analyst</i>	(202) 566-1321	facey.lester@epa.gov
<b>Teree Henderson</b> , <i>Program Analyst</i>	(202) 566-2222	henderson.teree@epa.gov
<b>Deanna Moultrie-Jackson</b> , <i>Program Analyst</i>	(202) 564-0168	moultrie-jackson.deanna@epa.gov
<b>Michael Nieves</b> , <i>Program Analyst</i>	(202) 566-1478	nieves.michael@epa.gov
<b>Lamont O. Norwood</b> , <i>Direct Team Lead</i>	(202) 566-2933	norwood.lamont@epa.gov
<b>Angela Tyler Suber</b> , <i>Program Analyst</i>	(202) 566-2827	suber.angela@epa.gov
<b>Paula Zampieri</b> , <i>Program Analyst</i>	(202) 566-2496	zampieri.paula@epa.gov
<b>Julie C. Taitt</b> , <i>MAI Team Lead</i>	(202) 564-3697	taitt.julie@epa.gov
<b>Tammy E. Thomas</b> , <i>Administrative Team Lead</i>	(202) 566-1209	thomas.tammy@epa.gov
<b>Denean A. Jones</b> , <i>Information Management Analyst</i>	(202) 566-1578	jones.denean@epa.gov
<b>Bridgette F. Dent</b> , <i>Program Assistant</i>	(202) 566-2819	dent.bridgette@epa.gov
<b>Elnora Thompson</b> , <i>Office Automation Assistant</i>	(202) 566-2709	thompson.elnora@epa.gov

## SEE Enrollees

<b>Treva Alston</b> , <i>Program Assistant</i>	(202) 566-2194	alston.treva@epa.gov
<b>Thelma Harvey</b> , <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(202) 566-0334	harvey.thelma@epa.gov
<b>Barbara Overton</b> , <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(202) 566-1509	overton.barbara@epa.gov
<b>Esther McCrary</b> , <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(202) 566-2824	mccrary.esther@epa.gov
<b>Tom Nakley</b> , <i>Civil Engineer</i>	(202) 566-2826	nakley.thomas@epa.gov
<b>Samar Chatterjee</b> , <i>Program Assistant</i>	(202) 566-2815	chatterjee.samar@epa.gov
<b>Lillian Harris</b> , <i>Program Assistant</i>	(202) 566-1979	harris.lillian@epa.gov
<b>Joyce Coates</b> , <i>Program Assistant</i>	(202) 566-0206	coates.joyce@epa.gov
<b>David Allen</b> , <i>Program Assistant</i>	(202) 566-0913	allen.david@epa.gov
<b>OSBP Main Number</b>	(202) 566-2075	OSBP@epa.gov
<b>OSBP Toll Free Number</b>	(866) 618-7870	
<b>Ombudsman Hotline Number</b>	(800) 368-5888	



# Regional DBE Coordinators

## REGION I

(CT, ME, RI, MA, NH, VT)  
Valerie Bataille, SDBUO (617) 918-1674  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
One Congress Street  
Boston, MA 02114-02203  
(617) 918-1909 (Fax)

## REGION II

(NJ, NY, PR, VI)  
Michele Junker, SDBUO (212) 637-3418  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2  
290 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
(212) 637-3518 (Fax)

## REGION III

(DE, VA, MD, PA, DC, WV)  
Kinshasha Brown-Perry (215) 814-5404  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

## REGION IV

(AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)  
Charles Hayes (404) 562-8377  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960  
(404) 562-8370 (Fax)

## REGION V

(IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)  
Adrienne Callahan, SDBUO (312) 353-5556  
Acquisition and Assistance Branch  
77 West Jackson Boulevard (MC-10J)  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507  
(312) 385-5533 (Fax)

## REGION VI

(AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)  
Debora N. Bradford, SDBUO (214) 665-7406  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
First Interstate Bank Tower at Fountain Place  
1445 Ross Avenue, 12th Floor, Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
(214) 665-7284 (Fax)

## REGION VII

(MO, NE, IA, KS)  
Chester Stovall, SDBUO (913) 551-7549  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
901 North 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
(913) 551-7976 (Fax)

## REGION VIII

(CO, MT, WY, SD, ND, UT)  
Marshall Pullman, SDBUO (303) 312-6499  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
999 18th Street, Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80202-2466  
(303) 312-6685 (Fax)

## REGION IX

(AZ, HI, CA, NV)  
Joe Ochab, SDBUO (415) 972-3761  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
75 Hawthorne Street (P-22)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 947-3556 (Fax)  
Martha Villarreal (415) 972-3666

## REGION X

(AK, ID, OR, WA)  
Greg Luchey, SDBUO (206) 553-2967  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue (OMP-145)  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-4957 (Fax)

## RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK

Jerry Dodson (919) 541-2249  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
109 TW Alexander Dr., #E110C  
Durham, NC 27709  
(919) 541-5539 (Fax)

## HEADQUARTERS

Veronica Squirrell (202) 564-5387  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., #3903R  
Washington, DC 20460



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