



# Building Community Strength Through Partnerships

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Environmental J.O.B.S.  
In Massachusetts

*Marian Flum*  
*University of Massachusetts Lowell*



# Environmental Justice on Brownfield Sites (**Environmental J.O.B.S.**)

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- Brownfield Minority Worker Training Program
- Initiated in Lowell, MA in 1998
- EPA Brownfield Showcase Community
- Goal: University-Community-Labor-Government Partnerships



# Program Offers Two Career Tracks

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## **Construction/ Remediation**

- Hazardous waste clean-up; asbestos and lead remediation
- General construction skills
- Laborers apprenticeship

## **Environmental Technician**

- Monitoring or sampling at hazardous waste, lead, or asbestos-contaminated sites



# Program Partnerships

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- Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA)
- Laborers-AGC
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
- Lowell Adult Education
- City of Lowell
- EPA



# Program Partnerships

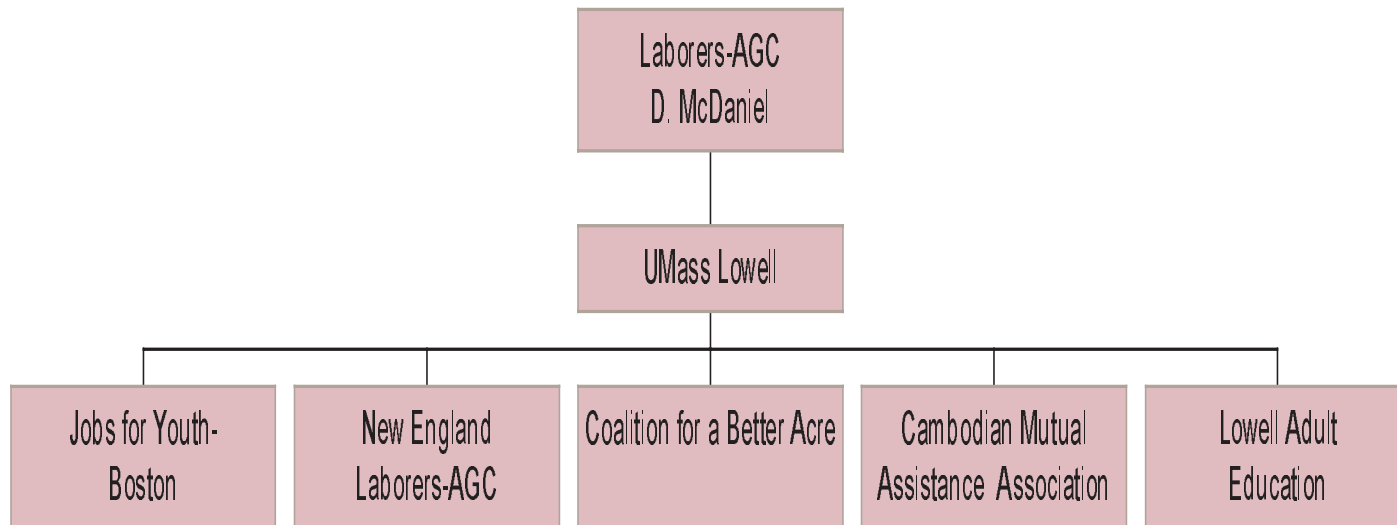
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Expanded to Boston in 2000

- Partnered with Jobs for Youth-Boston
  - Environmental Technician Program



# Environmental J.O.B.S.

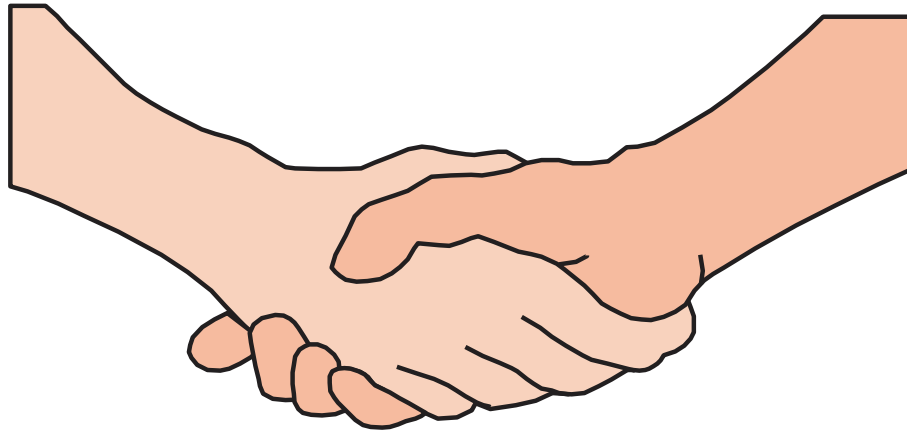




# Community Partnerships

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- Equality
- Organization-Building
- Trust





# Government Partnerships

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- City of Lowell
  - Div. Of Planning and Development
    - Brownfields
    - Lead Program
    - Acre Revitalization
- City of Boston
  - Boston Redevelopment Authority





# Government Partnerships (2)

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- EPA
  - Brownfield Showcase Coordinator
  - Region 1– Advisory Board
  - Internships
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
  - Minority Economic & Community Development
  - Dept. of Environmental Protection



# Community Partnerships

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- Frequent joint strategy/planning meetings
- Clear division of labor
- Funding for new positions/equipment
- Frank discussions of funding concerns



# Labor Partnerships

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- MA Laborers Training Center
  - Joint strategy meetings
  - Hands-on Assessment
  - Additional week of hands-on training
  - Modified curriculum
  - Set up internships
  - Assisted with graduate placement



## Labor Partnerships (2)

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- Apprenticeship Coordinator
  - Guaranteed Acceptance for graduates
  - Pre-placement into locals
- Lowell Laborers Local
  - Assisted with recruitment
  - Graduate Placement



# Developments -- CBA

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- Added new job development programs
- Worked with University on Brownfields development issues
- Able to apply for additional funding
- Expanded community environmental education programs
- Involved program graduates in community programs
- Union Contractors for new offices



# Developments -- City of Lowell

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- Contract language – Acre Revitalization environmental work
- HUD Lead training environmental justice component
- Field trips
- Advice



# Additional Funding -- Leveraging NIEHS/EPA Funds

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- CBA Funding
  - State MECD grant
  - Foundation grants
  - Additional University projects
  - City of Lowell HUD Lead grant
    - Community Awareness Education
- University Funding
  - City of Lowell Lead Training Grant
  - Hazardous waste training for Boston  
Redevelopment Authority EPA Brownfield grant



# Program Enhancement

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- Expanded training
- Dedicated instructor for GED/Basic skills
- Tutoring
- Bus transportation
- Lead and asbestos licensing fees
- Tools/ Final gifts





# The entire community benefits from partnerships

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- Community groups are more involved in environmental issues
- Community groups are able to expand their services
- Local government is more aware of community needs and concerns
- The University is better able to contribute to the betterment of the community
- Program graduates are more active in their community