

Florida Brownfields Association Certificate in Environmental Justice Leadership

Recent federal funding initiatives in the U.S. are contributing massive resources to assist communities with environmental justice challenges, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that invests \$5.4 billion in cleaning up legacy pollution at Superfund and brownfields sites and the Inflation Reduction Act that invests \$3 billion for environmental and climate justice. However, research demonstrates that many fence-line and frontline communities involved in environmental justice organizing efforts at the local level are ill-prepared to take advantage of these resources. The goal of this leadership certificate is to promote environmental justice organizing at the grass-roots level, with a special emphasis on brownfields redevelopment.

The certificate would be available to FBA and non-FBA members, but eligibility would be restricted to students (secondary and post-secondary) and community-based advocates in Florida. Applicants for the certificate would need to apply by briefly answering how they have met each of the following learning outcomes (for example, through formal training at a university or through community experience; note: a single experience can count for multiple learning outcomes):

Learning Outcome #1: know the history of the environmental justice movement

Learning Outcome #2: know basic terms and concepts in environmental justice studies

Learning Outcome #3: know the substance of important case studies in environmental justice

Learning Outcome #4: know about global environmental justice

Learning Outcome #5: know about environmental justice challenges in your own community

Learning Outcome #6: know how to use social science and public health methods for EJ research

Learning Outcome #7: know how to use online tools for EJ research

Learning Outcome #8: know local, state, and federal laws, statutes, and policies for EJ issues

Learning Outcome #9: know how to use research results for policy advocacy

Learning Outcome #10: know about environmental justice organizing through a community-based experience

Applications for the certificate would be reviewed on a rolling basis by the FBA's Environmental Justice and Public Health Committee and certificates would be presented to successful applicants at the annual FBA conference (or sent electronically for those unable to attend). Successful applicants would be encouraged to apply for an EJ scholarship to attend the FBA conference. Those awarded the certificate would receive a one-year complimentary membership in the FBA and be listed on the FBA website on an EJ leadership registry.

The certificate would say something like:

The Florida Brownfields Association
hereby certifies that
Krystal Pree Hepburn
has fulfilled the requirements for the association's
Certificate of Environmental Justice Leadership