CUNY's Green Gateway to Green Jobs

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Bio

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Tracy Handler is a career management professional with over 15 years experience developing and implementing programs for students and professionals who are pursuing career transitions. Currently, she manages the development of a green careers internship program for City University of New York students pursuing specialty certification within the green energy field.
Abstract

Green Gateways aims to provide a professional and multi-faceted internship experience for GET@CUNY graduates, create work orders for local contractors, and develop affordable, energy efficient solutions for NYC homeowners.

The program partners with contractors, not-for-profit organizations, low-income housing programs, weatherization agencies and others to ensure that NYC has the skilled workforce necessary to meet the requirements of clean energy policies and market demand. Initially targeting Building Analyst and Envelope graduates, the ‘Green Gateways for NYC Buildings’ program matches NYC contractors with graduates of GET@CUNY Building Performance Institute courses. The interns assist in performing complimentary energy audits on homes pre-approved for weatherization funding and low income loans identified through partnerships with community based organizations.

Session participants will learn:

• The business case and model for Green Gateways
• How we planned, budgeted, and launched the program
• Options for structuring an internship program and outreach strategies for contractors, students, community based organizations, and homeowners
• Challenges and solutions for creating a program that provides realistic work experiences and meets the goal to grow green jobs
• Accomplishments and plans for expanding the program to the NYC Solar America City Initiative
City University of New York (CUNY)

- Largest urban university system in the United States
- 19 Campuses, 23 Institutions
  - Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters and Doctoral degrees
  - Population 529,000+
  - Over 300 buildings
- Continuing Education Programs serve more than 270,000 students annually
Sustainable CUNY

CUNY Sustainability Project

Sustainable Energy

CUNY SustainableWorks

Energy Demands • Research • Environment • Consumer Demands • Policy Incentives • Applied Research • Commercialization • Market Transfer Curriculum • Workforce Training • Internships • Public Education

CUNY Population 529,000

NYC Population 8,300,000
Building Green Gateways

- Connect training to jobs
  - ‘Greening’ the job
  - ‘Growing’ the job

- Conduct outreach

- Identify partners

- Create Win-Win-Win
Green Gateways

- Participant screening
- Matching process
- Assistance with incentives
- Follow-up
Financing Green Gateways

- Funding
- Budget
- Staffing
- Business models
Building Relationships

- Contractors
- Students
- Instructors
- CBOs
- Funding partners
Accomplishments & Next Steps

• Demand for interns outstripped supply
• Contractors taking interns without expectation of GG supplying homeowners
• Partnering with CBOs on related initiatives
• 60% landed post-internship employment
• Expanding to solar internships
Blueprint

• Develop your model
• Secure funding
• Set realistic timetable
• Engage stakeholders
• Maintain momentum
Sustainable CUNY

Thank You!

sustainablecuny.org