PHILADELPHIA, DURHAM, NEW BEDFORD HONORED BY WAL-MART FOUNDATION FOR LEADERSHIP IN GREEN JOBS TRAINING

U.S. Conference of Mayors Announces 2010 Green Jobs Training Initiative Grant Winners

Oklahoma City – Mayors Michael Nutter of Philadelphia, PA, William Bell of Durham, NC, and Scott Lang of New Bedford, MA were honored at the 78th Annual Conference of Mayors meeting for their leadership in Green Jobs training. The U.S. Conference of Mayors selected non-profit organizations in their cities to receive grants from the Wal-Mart Foundation to support and expand training programs for Green Jobs.

“Energy, climate protection, and green jobs have been top priorities in our work with mayors, Congress and the Administration, specifically our efforts to enact a new energy block grant program and the Green Jobs Act,” said Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director of The U.S. Conference of Mayors. “The Wal-Mart Foundation’s generous support of our Green Jobs Training Initiative enables us to continue this important work in building a green workforce in cities.”

Matt Kistler, Senior Vice President of Sustainability for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., presented the awards.

“The U.S. Conference of Mayors, through its Green Jobs Task Force, is providing leadership, advocacy, best practices, and technical assistance to mayors and cities across the country to ensure that we, as a nation, are poised to successfully build the green economy,” said Kistler. “Wal-Mart is pleased to partner with The U.S. Conference of Mayors in their efforts to lay an important foundation for identifying the strategies that will help to move the needle for the creation of Green Jobs.”

Wal-Mart is a valued member of the Mayors Climate Protection Council, established to support The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Center. The Wal-Mart Foundation is committed to creating opportunities to help people live better and has funded a number of environmentally-friendly initiatives since the company created three
global environmental goals in 2005: to run on 100 percent renewable energy, create zero waste, and sell products that promote environmental sustainability.

Grant Winner Program Descriptions

Philadelphia (Large City Award for $500,000):

The Energy Coordinating Agency’s PHILLY GEARS UP for the Green Economy program consists of five pilot programs, all created in response to either federal or local legislation, which will create demand for retrofits, white roof coating, and energy audits. The pilot programs are:

1) A pre-apprenticeship for weatherization technicians for 20 High School Seniors
2) A pre-apprenticeship for foam insulation technicians for 25 BASF incumbent workers
3) An apprenticeship program for foam insulation technicians for 25 BASF incumbent workers
4) White Roof coating training for 25 WAP incumbent workers
5) Energy audit training for 50 energy auditors

According to one of the judges, “The program demonstrated strong mayoral commitment, employer engagement, and effective leveraging of resources, such as tuition reimbursement. The White Roof training is particularly innovative since it is simple, effective, and creates ‘Paint Brush-Ready Jobs.’”

Durham (Medium-sized City Award for $400,000):

The Builders of Hope’s Green Work Mentor Youth program will train up to 60 young parents aged 16-21 in a comprehensive and “family supportive” residential green construction and substantial rehabilitation training program. Participants will receive technical instruction and practical experience in worksite safety, equipment use, and basic licensed trades (e.g., framing and carpentry), and soft-skills development such as punctuality, communication, problem-solving, and conflict resolution.

Said one judge: “I loved the young parent trainee demographic; the training for young mothers is particularly innovative since the field of Green Jobs training has not yet had a strong focus on women. I was also impressed by the level of mayoral commitment, the relationship with the local Workforce Investment Board, and the range of green training fields including solar, weatherization, and deconstruction,” commented one of the judges.

New Bedford (Small City Award for $300,000):

The People Acting in Community Endeavors (P.A.C.E.)’s Youth Build Green Energy Solutions program will provide energy efficiency training in both residential and commercial techniques including certifications and training for entry and advanced levels. They will train local contractors, experienced construction workers, and inexperienced residents interested in entering the energy efficiency sector by providing
basic energy efficiency training to newcomers, and more advanced levels of training and support for entrepreneurs that is affordable to low- and moderate-income residents. They also plan to align their services with the Community Retrofit Program.

“I was impressed by the concrete outcome measurements and youth training,” one of the judges commented. “I particularly liked the trainee demographic of moderate-income trainees who did not qualify for free low-income training but did not have the money to pay for training. Another key trainee demographic of the program is contractors, who will further expand the Green Economy when they start their own business and hire more green employees.”

About Philanthropy at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) and the Wal-Mart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. Through its philanthropic programs and partnerships, the Wal-Mart Foundation funds initiatives focused on creating opportunities in education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009, Wal-Mart – and its domestic and international Foundations – gave more than $423 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.