

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**



Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP)
Solid Waste Management Administration

The District of Columbia Department of Public Works, in partnership with Howard University, the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Keep America Beautiful, Mid-City Business Association and Eco-Coach, Inc., has completed its second year of training young adults to be solid waste management professionals. Chosen through a competitive selection process, the six Howard University enrollees of the 2010 Material Resources Sustainability Internship Program (MRSI) pursued the following goals:

1. Develop young adults with relevant skills and understanding of environmental management.
2. Increase diversity of voices in environmental management.
3. Develop skills to increase civic participation and community organizing.
4. Add capacity to local school recycling.
5. Work with local businesses and educational institutions to elevate sustainable practices within our community.

During the seven-week program, this ambitious training curriculum addressed complex issues such as extraction, manufacturing, marketing, consumption, disposal, remanufacturing, business management and environmental justice. Using a cooperative format, partners adopted one day of the week to offer training in their particular area of expertise. Thus, Mondays were dedicated to visits with national sustainability experts. Tuesdays, the interns toured local facilities. On Wednesdays, the Walter E. Washington Convention Center offered behind-the-scenes participation, expert training and visitor outreach. Thursdays, the interns analyzed the “green” practices of local businesses with Eco-Coach, Inc. Fridays, the team was guided by a 2009 internship alumna, now representing the Alice Ferguson Foundation, whereby they were able to apply their newly-acquired skills in fostering material, social and policy changes -- on campus -- with the direct and abundant support of the Howard University administration.

Having completed their summer training, the final phase of their internship involved community service via independent “Venture Projects.” Via the generous sponsorship and co-coordination of Keep America Beautiful, team members worked in local District of Columbia public schools to guide school staff members in organizing a school Green Team, developing collection systems, creating staff and student educational materials and workshops, and establishing program performance measurements. Milestones included kick-off events, celebrations of America Recycles Day, and a presentation before the national chapter conference of Keep America Beautiful in December 2010, in Orlando, Florida.



(From Left) Russell Klein (Program Coordinator), Travis White, Rose Boomsma, Domenio Smith, Illai Kenney, Brian Menifee, Thomya Goode