



## **2015 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE AND TRAINING PROGRAM CONCLUDES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

*Attendees from several nations participate in legendary environmental justice event*

(Washington, DC) – April 1, 2015— The 2015 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program (NEJC) held in Washington, D. C. offered three days of high quality educational programming and panel discussions to the more than 500 registrants. As the attendees met to share best practices, challenges and discuss environmental justice (EJ), this year's National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program, which focused on Climate Change and Climate Justice—held March 11-13, 2015—proved to be highly successful. The NEJC's first ever Youth/Emerging Leaders Summit, which took place the first day of the conference, was overwhelmingly received and will be added as a part of future conferences.





During the conference, attendees had the opportunity to interact with a diverse group of representatives from federal and state agencies, local governments, tribes, community groups, business and industry leaders. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy served as the Keynote Speaker on day two of the conference.



She was joined by other acclaimed leaders in the environmental justice industry and experts on climate change, including Dr. Jonathan Pershing, Principal Deputy Director, Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis at the U. S. Department of Energy, Dr. John Balbus, Senior Advisor for Public Health to the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome, Environmental Justice Federal Policy Analyst, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, The Honorable Congressman James E. Clyburn, Assistant Democratic Leader (D-SC) and The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D., former Congresswoman (D-U.S.V.I.).



The 2015 NEJC's agenda provided workshops, panel discussions, Q&A segments, training opportunities, as well as networking lunches and receptions. It explored a plethora of topics including the growing presence of youth in EJ and the future of the EJ movement; incorporating EJ into the National Environmental Policy Act Process, increasing the use of film, storytelling and social media, and the use of Title VI to address EJ. It focused on interactive and innovative ways to enhance communities and provided ways for improved productivity and efficiency. The continued partnership with Howard University School of Law produced an array of networking opportunities among students, faculty, community, business and government leaders and also included EJ presentations from Germany, Taiwan and Australia.



The 2016 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program will be held March 9-12, 2016 in Washington, D. C., jointly with the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Health Disparities. The theme will be “A National Dialogue for Building Healthy Communities.” To learn more about the conference or the NEJC, visit [www.thenejc.org](http://www.thenejc.org).