

NIOSH Training Project Grant Annual Report 2015

Program: Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine
Industrial Hygiene – MSPH, PhD

Section I

TPG Summary: The objective of the Industrial Hygiene program at Tulane University is to provide training/education for student graduates that will enable them to seek employment in government, labor, the private sector, and in academia. The NIOSH training project grant has a primary aim of increasing the number of minority and disadvantaged students in the field of industrial hygiene. The training grant is administered through Tulane University's ABET-accredited industrial hygiene program.

Public Health Relevance: The need for increased participation of minorities in occupational safety and health professions has been documented by various agencies and organizations such as the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), Institute of Medicine (IOM), and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). To address this need, the Tulane University TPG has dedicated resources and time for the recruitment of minority and disadvantaged students, especially from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), in the New Orleans and southeast regions. NIOSH training grant funds have been instrumental in increasing awareness of IH as a career path and in recruitment of all students to the Tulane on-campus IH program.

Key Personnel:

Roy J. Rando is Professor and Vice-Chair of the Department of Global Environmental Health Science at Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical medicine. Professor Rando is the director of the Tulane TPG.

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TPG web link: none

Section II

Program highlights of high impact: In the past year, 8 students were enrolled in the Tulane on-campus industrial hygiene program working toward the MSPH degree. Five students graduated in the past academic year. Twenty-five percent (2) of the students were black/African American. The TPG provided direct financial support in the form of stipend and/or partial tuition to 3 student trainees. Two trainees participated in a faculty research project investigating

crystalline silica exposures and silicosis prevalence and progression in a large cohort of industrial sand workers. Of the three trainees, two graduated in May 2015 and one is continuing her studies in the current academic year with an expected graduation date of May 2016. One of the trainee graduates is now employed as an industrial hygienist with a consulting company based in the Pacific Northwest whereas the other is seeking employment in the Gulf Coast area.