NJIT TAB Hosts NJDEP’s Youth Inclusion Initiative Program

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection’s (NJDEP) Youth Inclusion Initiative is a workforce development program aimed at helping the State of New Jersey develop the next generation of environmental protection, conservation, and stewardship leaders while also providing an avenue for young adults from open space-constrained communities. This year’s cohort learned and undertook work across environmental sectors regulated by DEP including water quality, air quality, and public lands management. Brownfields and their redevelopment was a significant part of the curriculum that conveyed valuable information about their importance in creating thriving, resilient and sustainable communities as well as careers in environmental protection.

NJDEP selected NJIT as the host for its brownfields workshop due to the critical work it is engaged in relating to brownfields cleanup and reuse. The workshop, held on August 3rd included a brownfields 101 and a field visit of brownfield sites in Newark. NJIT TAB provided the event venue and conducted a presentation of the Universities’ environmental academic programs, the Center for Community Systems work, and NJIT’s brownfields program. A Q&A session on brownfields followed.