

## **Giving Back to Northwest Indiana**



**The BP Whiting Refinery has been a part of the community fabric of Northwest Indiana for more than a century.**

During that time, we have been pleased to contribute to surrounding communities as an employer and taxpayer, as well as a supporter of a range of educational projects and other activities aimed at community improvement in Whiting, Hammond and East Chicago.

Many of our employees live and work in Northwest Indiana. We are committed to providing a safe and environmentally sound environment for employees and neighbors to share.

### **BP Whiting Business Unit Community Advisory Committee**

As part of our commitment to give back to the communities in which we operate, we formed the BP Whiting Business Unit Community Advisory Committee. The Committee's members include local residents, business and other community leaders, and BP management, all united for the purpose of exchanging information about issues relevant to both Whiting Refinery and adjacent communities. The Committee is a way for BP to keep interested citizens and parties informed about Whiting Refinery activities, and, most importantly, to listen to community interests.

### **Fabric of America**

BP's Fabric of America program gives each BP employee \$300 to donate to one or two local non-profit organizations of their choice. BP employees do not need to provide any contribution of their own to qualify.

### **Education and Job Training**

BP is heavily invested in construction and industrial manufacturing training programs in Northwest Indiana. We are investing in these workforce development programs not only because this is the right thing to do for the local communities that support our business, but also because helping local residents develop the technical skills they will need for the foreseeable future, will mean great strides in helping to meet BP's own employment needs moving forward.

## Giving Back to Northwest Indiana (continued)

The following are some the programs that Whiting Refinery is involved with in area of education and job training:

- **JET Program:** Whiting Refinery participates in East Chicago's JET program (jobs, education and training), which helps to align local residents with training programs at Ivy Tech Community College, in order to enhance their skill-sets and better prepare students for jobs with BP and its contractors. The JET program also helps to align local job seekers with local employers that support our work.
- **Indiana Plan:** The Whiting Refinery supports the 'Indiana Plan' which provides pre-apprentice training to minorities that are interested in pursuing careers in the building trades.
- **BP Ambassador Program:** BP is committed to educating Northwest Indiana high school students about job opportunities at BP's Whiting Refinery. For example, BP Whiting employees provided job simulations to students of the Campagna Academy (Schererville), giving these kids first-hand exposure to the kinds of jobs performed daily in Whiting. We provided job demonstrations to upwards of 800 grade 9-12 students at I-STEM (Indiana Science Technology Engineering Mathematics), as part of a cross-industry event. BP employees talked with these students about typical opportunities at Whiting Refinery, and the kind of schooling they need to apply for these jobs. We participated in the East Chicago Central High School job fair last fall, along with our industry neighbors. We continue to work closely on this kind of outreach effort with East Chicago, Whiting, and Hammond, through the School Cities' Career Advancement Centers.
- **East Chicago Education Foundation:** BP provides a stipend to the East Chicago Foundation which is used to fund teaching grants for innovative curriculums in East Chicago schools.
- **Hammond Education Foundation:** BP provides a stipend to the Hammond Foundation which is used to issue teaching grants that support innovative teaching curriculum in Hammond schools.

## Giving Back to Northwest Indiana (continued)

- **Northwest Indiana Urban League:** BP works with the Urban League to educate minorities and disadvantaged populations about career and contract opportunities at BP and with the Whiting Refinery Modernization Project. One Urban League program, Read & Rise, helps grade school children develop basic reading skills.
- **Ivy Tech Process Technology Program:** The Process Tech Program is a 2-year educational program that provides technical, computer and safety skills training to college-aged students. The program helps to prepare and encourage marginalized community members for career opportunities in industrial or refining industries. BP employees participate in the 'Process Tech' program by teaching seminars, and leading classroom discussions, with students earning credits in programs that prepare them for technical careers. The Process Tech program is critical to helping Northwest Indiana replace its skilled aging workforce, so that Hoosier communities remain a competitive investment environment into the future.
- **The City of Whiting Scholarship:** The BP Foundation is contributing to The City of Whiting Scholarship Fund, which provides up to 3 graduating high-school students with an award of \$2000 each year over four years to support continuing education from an accredited institution in the region. Award recipients must be in the top 20% of their graduating class, and legal dependents of residents owning and occupying a home in Whiting. For City of Whiting Scholarship application information [click here](#)
- **Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center:** The Whiting Refinery supports the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center, which provides local children with opportunities to participate in a number of ecological education activities.
- **Native Landscapes:** BP Whiting Refinery partnered with the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) in providing 5th grade students at Franklin Academy in East Chicago (Indiana) with the opportunity to design and build a nativeplant landscape at Franklin Academy (June 2010).

BP, WHC completed a second 'Native Landscape' and park with 9th grade students at the new Hammond Academy of Science and Technology in Northwest Indiana (June 2011).

We recently began our third local 'Native Landscape' project with students of Calumet College St. Joseph in Whiting (September 2011).

BP issued grants to cover the costs of each of these practical environmental education projects.