



# **Southern University Baton Rouge**

**Universities Rebuilding  
America Partnerships**

**Overcoming Obstacles**

# Overcoming Obstacles

- **Target Area and population**
  - **Disaster designated parishes from East Baton Rouge Parish to St. Bernard Parish (14 parishes)**
  - **More than 310,000 Louisiana residents filed jobless claims after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (largest percentage in New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas)**





# Overcoming Obstacles

- **Target Area and population (cont)**
  - 42% minority unemployment rate for evacuees (October 2005)
  - Almost 73,000 small businesses (less than 50 employees) impacted by Katrina/Rita with only few able to resume business operations
  - Residents with no/minimal access to computers/internet



# Overcoming Obstacles

- **Job Training and Placement**
  - Provide basic training, technical training and certification in environmental remediation and construction trades to low-to-moderate income residents
  - **Partners**
    - Americorps VISTA
    - Greater King David Baptist Church
    - KDC Environmental Services



# **Overcoming Obstacles**

- **Small Businesses**
  - **Provide technical assistance to small and minority owned business applicants**
  - **Partners**
    - **Louisiana Office of Economic Development**
    - **Baton Rouge Black Chamber of Commerce**



# **Overcoming Obstacles**

- **Computer/Internet Access**
  - Provide technical assistance to community-based organizations to establish neighborhood network/technology centers
  - Provide computer literacy and other education classes
  - Computer graphic design apprentice program
  - Youth activities





# Overcoming Obstacles

- **Computer/Internet Access (cont)**
  - **Partners**
    - **New Family Home Worship Center International**
      - 2 locations – Baton Rouge and New Orleans
    - **Vision Media Training Institute**
    - **AE Technologies**

# Overcoming Obstacles

- **Will successfully overcome obstacles by providing low-to-moderate income persons**
  - **Basic and technical skills, certifications and placement to increase employment and self-sufficiency**
  - **Technical skills' assistance for starting or restarting own business and connectivity to the small business development centers in the area**





# Overcoming Obstacles

- Will successfully overcome obstacles by providing low-to-moderate income persons (cont)
  - Technical assistance to community-based organizations to establish two neighborhood network centers

