

Commemoration of the

75th ANNIVERSARY

of the

DESEGREGATION

of the

U.S. ARMED FORCES

**DOL Research Roundtable:
Black Veteran Employment
and Interventions**

Session III: JULY 31, 2023

1:00-2:30 pm EDT



Chief Evaluation Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



AGENDA

Opening

Julian Purdy – Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy of Veterans’ Employment and Training Service in the U.S. Department of Labor

Yolanda F. Peacock (Moderator) – Research Analyst for the Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service

Presentations

Rosalinda Vasquez Maury

Syracuse University, D’Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families

Henry Golatt

HBCU Community Development Action Coalition

Robert “Bobby” McDonald

Black Chamber of Commerce of Orange County (CA)

Sergio Dickerson

American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program

Rosemarie O’Connor, Ph.D.

ICF International

Questions & Answers

Yolanda F. Peacock

Closing Remarks

Julian Purdy

OPENING REMARKS

Julian Purdy is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy of Veterans’ Employment and Training Service in the U.S. Department of Labor. He has over 12 years of service working for and in the federal government. As a former Army NCO, he is truly dedicated to public service and to the betterment of our nation’s heroes. Prior to this appointment, he served as a Professional Staff Member on the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee; he was responsible for conceptualizing, drafting, and analyzing legislation related to military transition, employment, education, vocational training, home loans, and homelessness. During his tenure, he was one of the leading contributors for H.R. 7105, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, which increases protections for student veterans and expands benefits for homeless veterans.

PANELISTS

Yolanda F. Peacock (Moderator) is a Research Analyst for the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service. Ms. Peacock serves as the lead researcher and project manager for VETS' Black Veterans Research Project among other research and data analysis roles. Prior to joining VETS, Ms. Peacock served as an economist with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in various roles.

Rosalinda Vasquez Maury serves as the Director of Applied Research and Analytics at the D'Aniello Institute of Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University. She works on a diverse research portfolio that reflects the range of social, economic, and wellness challenges that may affect transitioning service members, veterans, or their families. She has worked on numerous research efforts, including workforce readiness as it relates to transitioning service members and veterans in the civilian labor force, career preferences, financial readiness, job matching, and employer perspectives on retention and workplace performance, factors impacting veteran and military families business owners, and service members experiences in higher education.

Henry A. Golatt is the Chief of Strategy and Partnerships at the HBCU Coalition, where he helps executive leadership communicate and execute the strategic vision sanctioned by the Board of Directors. He also serves as a senior organizational representative and voice at national and regional conferences and assists in developing and drafting funding proposals to ensure organizational growth. Mr. Golatt has also held many senior leadership positions in other organizations, including leading efforts within the Economic Development Division for the City of Columbus and serving as the executive director at the Economic Research and Development Center at the University of Arkansas. Mr. Golatt has won numerous honors and awards, such as the Delta Entrepreneurship Network Fellow, Booker T. Washington Economic Development Award from Tuskegee University Arkansas, District Director Partnership Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration, among others. He also sits on several boards and is an active member of numerous professional committees.

Robert V. 'Bobby' McDonald is President and Executive Director of the Black Chamber of Commerce of Orange County. Under his leadership, the Black Chamber of Commerce of Orange County has partnered consistently with minority business associations, local chambers, and legislators to provide support for the county's many small-business owners. Mr. McDonald developed the chamber's educational outreach programs, including the Bricks and Bridges program and the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Program with Christ Our Redeemer AME Church in Irvine, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the Volunteer Center of Orange County. McDonald is a U.S. Navy Vietnam Veteran and a member of the 9th and 10th Horse Calvary Association-Buffalo Soldiers. He served as a governor's appointee to the California Cultural Historical Endowment Board and the 17-member State Board of Governors of the California Community College System, where he created and chaired the Board's Veteran's Affairs Committee.

Sergio 'Serg' Dickerson, COL (RET) is the President and CEO of the American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program. Sergio is a 26-year Army

Veteran serving in leadership positions from Platoon to Brigade command and with multiple combat tours during his military service. Mr. Dickerson runs programs serving veterans, helping them transition out of the military, get jobs and overcome homelessness. Mr. Dickerson runs multiple federally funded programs to achieve these goals.

Rosemarie O'Conner is a Senior Director of Research Science at ICF Incorporated. She is a research methodologist and applied statistician with over 22 years of experience conducting research and evaluation in the social sciences, primarily in the field of education and training. Previously, Dr. O'Conner was an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Measurement and Research at the University of South Florida, where she taught graduate-level courses in measurement, research, and program evaluation. She also worked as an assessment specialist with the Department of Defense Education Activity. Dr. O'Conner currently leads the evaluation of the Transition Assistance Program for the U.S. Department of Labor and serves as the principal investigator for the ICF team on the Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research (CLEAR).