



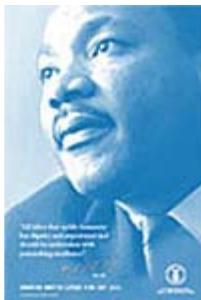
DOL News Brief

January 21, 2010

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Honoring Dr. King's Legacy

This week, Americans came together to move our nation closer to Dr. Martin Luther King's "Dream." His teachings continue to serve as a guide in addressing our nation's most pressing needs — poverty, economic insecurity, job loss and education. In commemoration of Martin Luther King Day, 2010, the U.S. Department of Labor created a special poster.



- [Download the Poster](#)

What's Hot: Almost Half a Billion and Counting

DOL has announced nearly half a billion dollars in green jobs grants since January 1. On Wednesday, Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis announced nearly \$190 million in State Energy Sector Partnership and Training grants. These grants will train workers for careers in renewable energy, energy efficiency and other industries, and will help states implement comprehensive development strategies around renewable energy. Thirty-four awards ranging from approximately \$2 million to \$6 million each are being made to state workforce investment boards in partnership with their state workforce agencies, local workforce investment boards, and One-Stop Career Centers.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read about Green Jobs Grants](#)

Solis Shares Summer Success



On Wednesday, Secretary Solis spoke to an audience of more than 200 mayors attending the Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. She highlighted the

Department's achievements over the last year and emphasized DOL's commitment to work with Mayors on Summer Youth Employment programs. Last year was the first time in a decade that the federal government funded this program and more than 300,000 youth participated nationwide.

Later, Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary of the Employment and Training Administration served on the Jobs, Education and Workforce Standing Committee panel to discuss Workforce Investment Act reauthorization and the Department's priorities for the new program year.

- [Read the Secretary's Remarks](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)

Polaski Promotes "Better Work"

Deputy Undersecretary for the Department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs Sandra Polaski visited Nicaragua on January 18 and 19 to explore opportunities to introduce the "Better Work" program to Nicaragua's textile industry under the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). The "Better Work"

DOL Working For You: Job Corps Provides American Dream for Romanian Born Student

Vili Belisle's 5,000 mile journey to find his "American dream" will culminate this fall with his graduation from the Palmer, Alaska Job Corps Center. Vili and his younger sister, Ana, overcame a broken home life and years in foster care in Romania when they were both adopted by Alaskans Ken and Bethel Belisle.

In 2008, Vili enrolled in Job Corps and is studying to become a facilities manager when he graduates in September. He also makes it a point to visit adoption agencies to tell his story to children and stress the benefits of adoption to prospective parents.

"The Job Corps program gives me the opportunity to learn a career and practice skills I will need in the real world," he said. "Job Corps has helped me fulfill my dreams."



News You Can Use: E-filing Goes Live for Benefit Programs

The Department's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) hosted a free webcast January 21 to help employers, plan administrators and service providers prepare for changes to the Form 5500 and electronic filing requirements that begin with the 2009 plan year filings. The webcast covered changes to the Form 5500 and its filing process, as well as introduced participants to the new EFAST electronic filing system.

program is a successful initiative pioneered in Cambodia that protects the interest of both workers and employers.

- [Learn more](#)

Creating Good Jobs Through Registered Apprenticeship



On January 12 and 13, the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) Office of Apprenticeship held two 'Creating Good Jobs through Registered

Apprenticeship' listening sessions. These events brought together leadership from a wide range of employers, industry associations and national labor organizations to get their views on pre-apprenticeship, Registered Apprenticeship, and partnerships among apprenticeship programs, educators, and the workforce system. In the coming weeks the 21st Century Apprenticeship Community of Practice (CoP) Web site will feature more information about what Registered Apprenticeship's valued stakeholders and ETA leadership had to say. A summary report of the events will be available on the CoP site soon.

- [Visit the CoP Site](#)

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

EBSA — COBRA Premium Reduction Extension Provisions Compliance Assistance Webcast

- [January 22, 2010 — Washington, DC](#)

EBSA — Getting It Right: Know Your Fiduciary Responsibilities Seminar

- [January 28, 2010 — Pasadena, CA](#)

ETA — Webinar: Youth Entrepreneurship as a Tool in the Workforce Development System

- [January 22, 2010 — Online](#)

MSHA — Annual Arkansas Mine Safety and Health Conference

- [February 4-5, 2010 — Hot Springs, AR](#)

ODEP — A New Day

- [January 27, 2010 — Philadelphia, PA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [February 4, 2010 — Los Angeles](#)

- [View the Webcast](#)

National News: Reflecting on the 1st Year

Wednesday, January 20 marked the one year anniversary of the Obama Administration. While there is still work to be done, the Labor Department has many things for which it can be proud. Over the past year, DOL has:



- Distributed \$2.8 billion for Unemployment Insurance Modernization;
- Served more than 2.3 million workers through state employment-related services;
- Completed \$720 million in career training;
- Handled 150,000 COBRA inquiries;
- Provided funding for projects that employed more than 300,000 summer youth;
- Awarded more than \$101 million in National Emergency Grants;
- Restored worker protection agencies' staffing levels;
- Issued the largest fine in the history of OSHA;
- Announced a comprehensive strategy to end new cases of black lung among the nation's coal miners; and
- Recovered more than \$137.6 million in back wages.

Around DOL: We Are "Open"

On Tuesday, the Department of Labor became the first federal agency to meet one of the key deliverables of the White House's Open Government Directive by launching our "open" Web page. This page highlights recently added data sets, links to the many ways people can connect with the Department online, and shares how citizens can provide feedback that will make this site, and DOL's work, even better and more engaging. The initial launch of the page was featured on the Sunlight Labs blog, part of the Sunlight Foundation, a non-profit, non partisan Washington, DC based organization focused on digitization of government data and making tools and Web sites to make it easily accessible.

- [Visit the DOL "Open" Site](#)

DOL In Action: \$1.6 Million for Floridians

Floridians impacted by mortgage industry layoffs will have an opportunity to access employment services that will lead to new careers in promising industries. More than \$1.6 million in National Emergency Grant funding has been made available to assist approximately 600 workers affected by layoffs at the Taylor, Bean and Whitaker Mortgage Corp. and its subsidiaries.

- [Read the News Release](#)

The Green Scene: ATL Women Going Green

Thirty unemployed women, who previously worked in a broad spectrum of industries, are participating in a new "Women Going Green" project. Funded by the Department's Women's Bureau, this new program, developed by the Atlanta Regional Office, is providing unemployed women with the opportunity to secure better earnings and better living through training in

[CA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction Contractors

- [January 28, 2010 — Orange, CA](#)
- [January 29, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Workforce Awareness Group Seminar

- [January 22, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Open Forum Compliance Assistance

- [January 22, 2010 — San Antonio, TX](#)

OFCCP — Workforce Awareness Group Seminar

- [January 22, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Webinar: Ready, Set, Go for Construction Contractors

- [January 26, 2010 — Webinar](#)

OFCCP — AAP Development and Preparing for a Desk Audit

- [January 26, 2010 — Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [January 28, 2010 — Baltimore, MD](#)
- [February 3, 2010 — Philadelphia, PA](#)

OFCCP — Webinar: Affirmative Actions Audit

- [January 27, 2010 — Anchorage, AK](#)

OFCCP — Beyond the Written AAP

- [January 27, 2010 — Houston, TX](#)

OFCCP — Affirmative Action Plan (AAP) Workshop

- [February 3, 2010 — Pittsburgh, PA](#)

OSHA — OSU OSHA Safety Day

- [January 26, 2010 — Columbus, OH](#)

green small businesses, and/or high demand non-traditional green careers. The women recently took their first field trip to Southface, an organization that promotes sustainable homes, workplaces and communities through education, research, advocacy and technical assistance training.

Recovery Highlights: Extension of COBRA Continuation Coverage

Updated model notices enabling group health plans and employers to notify plan participants about the recent COBRA subsidy extension, as well as updated FAQs, a fact sheet, and poster are now available. In addition, the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) will host a free webcast on Jan. 22, from 1 to 3 p.m. (EST) to help employers, plan administrators and service providers comply with COBRA notice requirements. "These notices give workers and their families useful information to keep important health benefit coverage during these challenging economic times, and help employers and plans to meet their obligations to provide the notices," said EBSA Assistant Secretary Phyllis Borzi.

- [Read the News Release](#)
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Opportunities are Open: OFCCP

DOL's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) is committed to workplace equity. OFCCP ensures that contractors and subcontractors doing business with the federal government provide an equal opportunity for employment, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or status as a Vietnam era or special disabled veteran. Check out the three equal opportunity positions below or [view all](#) the exciting and rewarding DOL positions.

1. Positions in Hartford, CT
[Equal Opportunity Assistant \(OA\) — GS-0361-05/05](#)
DE-10-BOS-OFCCP-55
Close: 01/29/2010
2. Positions in Essex & Union Counties, NJ
[Equal Opportunity Specialist — GS-0360-05/09](#)
DE-10-BOS-OFCCP-64
Close: 02/02/2010
3. Position in Los Angeles County, CA
[Supervisory Equal Opportunity Specialist — GS-0360-13/13](#)
DE-10-SF-OFCCP-42
Close: 02/04/2010

Follow USDOL on 

- "Students with autism have access to many resources, but adults are left out in the cold." - Dallas #Disability Listening Session [about 16 hours ago](#)

- In Dallas the parent of an autistic child asked for public-private partnerships and alternative strategies to employ people with autism. [about 16 hours ago](#)

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