



## DOL News Brief

April 22, 2010

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### DOL Hosts 1st Ever G20 Labor and Employment Ministers' Meeting



The Department hosted the G20 Labor and Employment Ministers' Meeting on April 20 and 21. It was the first time in history Labor Ministers from the world's 20 largest economies met. The

G20 countries account for more than 85 percent of the global economy and two-thirds of the world's population. As Secretary Solis told the Ministers in her welcome remarks, this was an opportunity for the leaders to learn from each others' experiences as they discuss the impact of the global economic crisis on employment. "We must look to build a foundation for sustainable, balanced economies that create good jobs for all those who want to work," said Solis. After the opening remarks and plenary session, the Ministers gave presentations showcasing what they have accomplished and the lessons they have learned. They also met with President Obama at the White House to share their global recommendations to meet the challenges that the economic crisis has posed for workers around the world. Upon returning to their respective countries, the Labor Ministers will share the recommendations with their leaders in advance of the June 2010 G20 Leaders Summit to be held in Toronto.

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

### International Press Comes to DOL

Members of the media from more than a dozen countries descended on DOL for the G20 Labor and Employment Ministers' Meeting on April 20 and 21.



Correspondents from Mexico, Japan, Egypt, South Korea, Turkey, India and France — just to

## The Green Scene

### Labor Department Releases Report on Green Job Training Initiatives

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, DOL released a report to highlight its programs that promote green jobs. Examples include: greening the nearly 2 million square foot Frances Perkins building in Washington, DC, and buildings at the 123 Job Corps campuses nationwide. The report also includes details about how, over the past year, through DOL-supported programs, \$490 million in Recovery Act funds have been awarded for green jobs training. In addition, \$227 million in health care and high growth grants have been awarded, which include several grants related to clean energy.

- [View the Full Report](#)

### Department Launches "Turning Green Jobs to Gold, Safely" Campaign

On Earth Day, the Department launched its "Turning Green Jobs to Gold, Safely" campaign. Over the next year, DOL staff will collect examples of actions that organizations and businesses have taken to support the emerging clean energy economy while at the same time adopting climate friendly actions. A sampling of best practices will be featured in a guide to be released on Earth Day 2011. To be considered as a featured best practice, interested persons should describe (in 150 words or less) how their company or organization has changed or adopted a plan to create green jobs and helped spur economic growth.

- [Submit Your Green to Gold Story](#)

### Chatting Green with Job Corps

On Thursday, Secretary Solis hosted an interactive Web chat with students from more than 100 Job Corps Centers across the country. Building on Recovery Act funds for construction, rehabilitation, acquisition and operations, many Job Corps centers have implemented "green" student training programs and commenced green construction projects at more than 65 centers. These efforts are protecting the environment while creating and retaining jobs. Job Corps is also conducting an "Earth Day Every Day" campaign April 19th-23rd to raise environmental awareness among students nationwide.



- [Read the Web Chat](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)

### Muhlenberg Job Corps Receives Earth Day Award

On Thursday, The Muhlenberg Job Corps Center of Greenville, Ky. received the first ever

name a few! — covered the historic event. At a press conference Wednesday, Secretary Solis told the international media that the G20 countries must work together for economic recovery.

"Recovering from the crisis, restoring sustained and balanced growth that creates enough good jobs for our people, is something that we cannot do alone in our own countries." In addition, she outlined the G20 recommendations to meet the challenges that the economic crisis is posing for workers and their families worldwide. Suggestions included accelerating job creation, strengthening social protection systems, placing employment at the center of global economic strategies, improving the quality of jobs, and preparing our workforces for future challenges and opportunities.

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

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## Job Corps Students at Center of G20 Diplomacy



Students from the Cleveland, Ohio, Job Corps Academy and the Albuquerque, New Mexico, Job Corps Center played an important part in the historic G20 meetings held at the Labor Department. The

memento that delegates received from Secretary Solis was conceived and produced by student Jessica Hall of the Cleveland Job Corps, with help from her fellow students. Hall's design – a four sided wooden base with logo, Mercator map and inscriptions atop which sits four metal human figures – was chosen first from among about twenty entries received in a nationwide student contest conducted by the national office of Job Corps. ([MORE](#))

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Read an Article](#)

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## Cornell Honors Harris

Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations honored Deputy Secretary of Labor Seth Harris this week with its coveted William B. Groat Alumni Award. The award is presented annually in recognition of professional accomplishments in the field of industrial relations and service to the school. Prior to joining the Obama administration, Mr. Harris was a Professor of Law at New York Law School and Director of its Labor & Employment Law Programs. His writings focus on issues related to economics and employment law, with a particular emphasis on disabilities accommodations and labor markets.



"Earth Day, Every Day" National Green Center Recognition Award from Secretary Solis in an Earth Day 40th anniversary ceremony at the Department. "The staff and students of Muhlenberg Job Corps Center have shown great enthusiasm for this commitment to Earth

Day and all that it means," said Secretary Solis. She was joined by students and staff from the center, Employment and Training Administration Assistant Secretary Jane Oates and Job Corps National Director Edna Primrose. Muhlenberg Job Corps won the highest honor for best exemplifying Job Corps' Recovery Act initiatives by "greening" its center through waste reduction and energy conservation practices. In addition, the center is training its students in green jobs programs and environmentally friendly concepts.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)

## Learn What it Takes to Get your new Green Job Today!

The Employment and Training Administration is announcing the Career One Stop Green Careers Web portal. This new site connects job seekers to information on more than 200 green careers, and the skills and training needed to enter them. Users can explore green careers based on the level of education or training required, as well as locate training programs. The information found on the Green Careers portal is based on the Occupational Information Network's (O\*NET) Green Economy project.

- [Visit the Web Portal](#)
- [Learn More About the O\\*NET Project](#)

## Teleconference to Focus on Women's Green Entrepreneurship

On April 29 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. EDT, the Department's Women's Bureau will host the second teleconference in a series on women and green jobs training and employment. Titled "Women's Entrepreneurship in Green Industries," the teleconference will focus on opportunities and resources available to help women succeed in green entrepreneurship, including first-hand tips from experienced green entrepreneurs. Speakers include Women's Bureau Director Sara Manzano-Diaz; Executive Director of the Women's Initiative for Self Employment Julie Abrams; Project Manager of Public Policy Associates Inc. Colleen Graber, CEO of Powerfully Green Rebecca Lundberg; and President/CEO of Austin Lumber Laura Culin. Participation is limited, so register early!

- [Learn More and Register](#)

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## DOL Working for You

### Joliet Job Corps Embraces Its Earth Day Responsibilities

Although Job Corps centers around the country pitched in on many important Earth Day projects, the Joliet, Illinois Job Corps Center conducted yeoman service to protect its community's watershed environment.

Forty-five students, five teachers and two STARS (Speakers, Tutors, Achievement, Retention, Success) volunteers spent 140 hours over three days spreading a green message. They painted "Dump No Waste, Drains to River" stencils on 275 storm sewer drains, and left environmental message door knob hangers in



## Remembering Dorothy Height



People who met Dorothy Height came away with the impression of a strong, dignified woman who was committed to achieving equality – both in the civil rights and women’s rights movements. Her long career in fighting for human rights spanned from the anti-lynching protests of the 1930’s through the

inauguration of the nation’s first African-American president. She died on Tuesday, 27 days after her 98th birthday. “Dorothy Height was the mother of the civil rights movement and a godmother and mentor to many of us,” said Secretary Solis.

## National Equal Pay Day

Tuesday marked National Equal Pay Day. Despite the fact that women comprise nearly half of the workforce, a woman earns only 80 cents for every dollar earned by a man. This gap increases among minority women and those with disabilities. DOL Women’s Bureau Regional Administrators and Director Sara Manzano-Diaz, along with the White House Council on Women and Girls, hosted a briefing with leading non-governmental research organizations on the current status of the wage gap. Presenters included leaders and experts from the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, the National Women’s Law Center, the American Association of University Women, the National Partnership for Women and Families, and the Center for American Progress. They shared insights, analyses, and current research on this critical issue for women, their families and our economy, and provided recommendations for policymakers moving forward.

- [Read the President’s Proclamation](#)
- [Read the Secretary’s Statement](#)

## Goodman Reappointed

Elizabeth A. Goodman has been reappointed as a member of the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries for a three-year term. Ms. Goodman is a senior employee benefits law specialist with DOL’s Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in Washington, D.C. The board establishes standards and qualification for actuaries who perform actuarial services for pension plans. Frances P. Steen, an employee benefits law specialist with EBSA, was appointed as an alternate board member.

## Upcoming Deadlines & Events

### MSHA — Mine Inspector Job Fair

- [April 29-30, 2010 — Farmington, NM](#)

dozens of local neighborhoods. Their effort was aimed at educating neighbors to avoid polluting waters and streams by recklessly disposing of oil, paints and other toxins down sewers.

“We can educate the public and make a difference for the planet in one small step,” said student Jimmy Saenz, shown here stenciling storm drains. “Our students learn best by doing,” said STARS coordinator Jan Larsen. “I can’t think of a greener project we could do that would impact the environment more,” she said.

## DOL in Action

### NJ Company to Pay \$4 Million in Back Wages and Damages

Piscataway, N.J.-based Raceway Petroleum Inc. and owner Nicholas Kambitsis will pay \$3.9 million in unpaid overtime wages and liquidated damages to more than 700 of their current and former employees — predominantly attendants — at gas stations located throughout central and southern New Jersey. Under a consent judgment filed in United States District Court, the company and Kambitsis will also pay \$100,000 in civil money penalties. The judgment resolves a lawsuit filed by the Department which alleged that the company violated the Fair Labor Standards Act when employees were not paid time and one-half their regular hourly rates after working in excess of 40 hours in a workweek.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Criminal Enforcement to Protect Employee Benefits

A Parkland, Fla., man was convicted on 14 criminal counts involving mail fraud, wire fraud and embezzlement from an employee benefit plan. Anthony James was indicted on charges that he received more than \$5.3 million from more than 40 investors, including pension plan participants, in Illinois, Florida and Michigan. James spent approximately \$2.5 million of investors’ money for personal use and to pay back earlier investors, a characteristic of a Ponzi scheme. “This criminal action demonstrates the Labor Department’s resolve to vigorously enforce the law to ensure that those who steal from contributory employee benefit plans are brought to justice,” said Paul Baumann, Director of the Employee Benefits Security Administration’s Cincinnati Regional Office.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Continued Funding for Hoosiers Impacted by RV Layoffs

The Department announced that workers in Indiana’s recreational vehicle (RV) industry will continue to receive re-employment services through more than \$3.5 million in additional National Emergency Grant funds. The funds will assist 1,040 workers who were impacted by mass layoffs in the RV industry across Indiana in 2008. Workers benefiting from this grant will continue to receive an array of services, including skills assessment, individual career counseling and occupational skills training.

- [Read the News release](#)

### Independent Team to Examine MSHA’s Internal Review Process

Secretary Solis has called for an independent team of occupational safety experts to examine the process and outcomes of the Mine Safety and Health Administration’s (MSHA) internal review following the April 5 explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine. Solis asked the director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Dr. John Howard, to identify a team with relevant experience to provide an independent analysis of MSHA’s internal review. “I am confident that MSHA will conduct a thorough and complete review of the actions of the mine operator and its own actions at the Upper Big Branch Mine,” noted Secretary Solis. “To ensure accountability, I’ve asked for an outside team to review the policy,

**MSHA — New Mexico Mine Health and Safety 3rd Annual Conference, May 3-5**

- [May 3-5, 2010 — Socorro, NM](#)

**MSHA — North Carolina Mine Safety & Health Seminar**

- [April 27, 2010 — Wilson, NC](#)
- [April 28, 2010 — Statesville, NC](#)

**OFCCP — Compliance Assistance for Construction Contractors**

- [April 23, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

**OFCCP — Compliance Assistance for Supply and Service Contractors**

- [April 30, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

**OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar**

- [April 23, 2010 — Orange, CA](#)
- [April 23, 2010 — Los Angeles, CA](#)
- [April 28, 2010 — Carson, CA](#)

**OFCCP — AAP Development & Preparing for a Desk Audit**

- [April 22, 2010 — Baltimore, MD](#)

**OFCCP — EEO Obligations of Companies Receiving ARRA Contracts**

- [April 29, 2010 — Baltimore, MD](#)

**OLMS — Compliance Assistance Seminar**

- [May 4, 2010 — Columbia, SC](#)

**OSHA — Maritime Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health Meeting**

- [April 29, 2010 — Newport, RI](#)

**Women's Bureau — Retirement Planning for Women" Workshop**

- [April 24, 2010 — Kansas City, MO](#)

**Women's Bureau — Women's Entrepreneurship in Green Industries**

- [April 29, 2010 — Washington, DC](#)

**Women's Bureau — Young Women, Strong Leaders Conference**

- [April 23, 2010 — Petoskey, MI](#)

process and substance of MSHA's internal review. This independent evaluation will help ensure that we're doing everything we can to protect the health and safety of America's miners."

- [Read the News release](#)

**MHSA Launches Inspection Blitz at Nation's Coal Mines**

Last weekend, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) enforcement personnel from around the country inspected more than 50 coal mines located in 10 states. These inspections were part of a concentrated blitz on mine operations with a history of violations of safety standards concerning methane, mine ventilation, and rock dusting—the types of violations that can lead to mine accidents. "The purpose of these inspections is to provide assurance that no imminent dangers, explosions hazards or other serious health or safety conditions and practices are present at these mines," said MSHA Assistant Secretary Joseph A. Main. "Just last week, we pledged to the President that we will do whatever it takes to make sure another tragedy like the one that claimed 29 miners' lives at Upper Big Branch never happens again."

- [Read the News Release](#)

**DOL Provides \$16.6 Million for American Samoa Recovery Effort**

The Department has issued a \$16,571,738 National Emergency Grant for continued clean-up and recovery efforts in American Samoa following the territory's September 2009 tsunami. "Our hearts go out to the victims and survivors of this tragedy. We recognize that there is still much work to be done as American Samoa recovers from the impact of the tsunami that struck last year," said Secretary Solis. Funds will be used to create temporary jobs to assist in the recovery.

- [Read the News Release](#)

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## Opportunities are Open: Assistants

DOL needs your assistance! Agencies throughout the Department are in search of talented assistants to help carry out the Secretary's vision of "Good jobs for everyone." Explore the three positions below or [view all](#) the exciting and rewarding opportunities at DOL.

1. Position in Dallas, TX  
[Economic Assistant —GS-0119-05/05](#)  
DE-10-DAL-BLS-0125  
Close: 04/28/2010
2. Positions in Boston, MA  
[Legal Assistant —GS-0986-07/08](#)  
DE-10-BOS-ALJ-109  
Close: 04/26/2010
3. Positions in Barbourville, KY  
[Mine Safety and Health Assistant —GS-1802-05/06](#)  
DE-10-ATL-MSHA/D7-085  
Close: 04/26/2010

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- DOL's OSHA takes action to protect America's workers with severe violator program and increased penalties [04/22/2010]  
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