



DOL News Brief

May 13, 2010

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AAPI - "Surviving" and Thriving!

Secretary Solis kicked off Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Month this week by hosting a panel discussion titled, "Diverse Leadership for



a Diverse Workforce." The Ultimate Survivor Winner (remember the 13th Season in the Cook Islands?) Yul Kwon, Deputy Chief for the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at the Federal Communications Commission; Patricia Shiu, Director of DOL's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs; and Phil Tom, Director for DOL's Center of Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships, shared their personal and professional stories, and offered advice on how to succeed in the federal system. All three shared a common belief: doing what you love is important to bringing success and happiness. The event concluded with a serving of a variety of traditional Asian foods, and performances of the Erhu (two-stringed violin) and the Chinese Lion Dragon dance.

- [Watch the Video](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)

Tune in for the AAPI Roundtable

On Wednesday May 19, from 1 - 3 p.m. EDT, Secretary Solis will host a live webcast featuring a roundtable with Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community leaders. The discussion will include: issues impacting AAPI women workers, labor and community partnerships, and challenges facing AAPI workers in the areas of workplace safety, wages and hours. Anyone interested is invited to watch the forum LIVE online, or join the discussion by submitting questions directly as it happens, or in advance.

- [Submit a Question](#)
- [Watch the Webcast](#)

The Superpower to Heal

During National Nurses

What's Hot

Send U.S. Your Resume!

The federal government is streamlining its hiring process. Earlier this week, Secretary Solis joined Office of Personnel Management Director John Berry and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Sean Donovan at a press conference outlining the most extensive reform in federal hiring procedures in three decades. Several improvements are scheduled to go into effect this November — including one that will allow job seekers to submit their resume and cover letter as an application for employment. Currently, the federal hiring portal, usajobs.gov, uses complex questionnaires and essays for most applications for federal employment. Solis said the nation's government needs to recruit and retain qualified applicants, and that the process should not get in the way of that goal. She also added that DOL alone is looking to fill some 3,000 career positions across the nation.

- [Apply for Federal Job](#)
- [Read the President's Memorandum](#)
- [Read the News Release](#)

Lights! Camera! Action! Job! Win \$1,000!

The U.S. Department of Labor has kicked-off the Career Videos for America's Job Seekers Challenge, which invites members of the public to produce and submit videos capturing "a day in the life" of workers in 15 high-wage and in-demand occupations. The video challenge will highlight a handful of occupations that can help job seekers decide if these are careers they want to pursue. Persons who submit videos and are selected as top video choices in each category will win a \$1,000 cash prize." People need to know what a job looks like and what the work entails before they make the decision to switch careers or enter training that leads to a good job in a new occupation," said Secretary Solis. "We want to see what you, America's workers, are doing day in and day out."

- [Review the Occupations and Submit a Video](#)

DOL Working for You

DOL Helps Photographer Gain Success in a Flash

When he was laid off for the first time ever from his commercial printing job, Dana Nordlund developed a photography career thanks to the DOL funded Self Employment Assistance Program (SEAP) in New York State.

The fifty-one year old admitted apprehension about visiting his local One Stop Career Center, but with the help of a career counselor, he signed up for the six month business program for entrepreneurs to learn about bookkeeping, zoning, and business





Week 2010, Secretary Solis spoke at the legislative conference of National Nurses United, where she was greeted with thunderous applause

management and planning. Today he is a successful certified professional photographer, producing photos of weddings, graduations and family portraits.

Nordlund said the amount of knowledge he gained from SEAP was very focused and helpful; and he added, putting the program together “was one of the smartest things ever done” by the government.

Around DOL

OSHA to Partner with Local Building Inspectors

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is launching a pilot program in 11 U.S. cities in which local building inspectors would partner with the agency in an effort to reduce injuries and fatalities at construction sites. OSHA will teach inspectors about the most dangerous hazards, and ask them to notify the agency if they observe unsafe work conditions. “This initiative allows us to expand our eyes and ears,” says David Michaels, assistant secretary for OSHA. “Although we are adding 110 new inspectors this year, OSHA simply cannot inspect every construction site in the country.”

- [Read the News Release](#)

MSHA Asks: Are We Prepared for the Next Mine Emergency?

It couldn't have been more timely. On the heels of one of the worst coal mine disasters in 40 years, members of the mining community, including operators, manufacturers, and mine rescue professionals, gathered at the Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beckley, W.Va., on Tuesday for a Public Meeting on Mine Emergency Preparedness and Response. “This forum provides an opportunity for the entire mining community to evaluate the existing gaps and needed improvements in mine emergency response,” said Joe Main, assistant secretary of labor for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). Two coal mining companies — CONSOL Energy and International Coal Group Inc. — made presentations on their respective mine emergency response models. Representatives from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and Penn State University also spoke. Main assured the audience that this was just the first round of a number of such discussions. As he continually stressed, “You can never be too prepared.”

OLMS Nashville Staff Respond to Devastating Flood

Following the devastating flood that impacted much of the state of Tennessee, the Office of Labor-Management Standards' (OLMS) Nashville District Office was closed due to high water, and remained closed until last Friday. Unable to continue their normal operations, staff wasted no time lending a helping hand to flood victims. Employees and their families provided hands-on assistance in evacuating homes, backpacking into inaccessible areas to help with recovery, donating much needed clothing and supplies to various disaster relief charities and donating food and supplies to several of the area animal shelters. OLMS Nashville staff knows that the recovery is likely to take weeks to months, and they plan to continue to offer assistance to their local communities.

Working for Working Women

Job creation, fair treatment and job quality were the topics of discussion at DOL Monday afternoon as Secretary Solis and Women's Bureau Director Sara Manzano-Díaz sat down with representatives from national women's organizations. According to the latest statistics, women are the lead breadwinners in two-thirds



by an audience of more than 1,000. Many in the crowd were clad in red t-shirts that read: “Saving one life makes you a hero. Saving many makes you a nurse.” Solis underscored her unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well being of healthcare professionals. “In 2008, 36,000 healthcare workers were hurt on the job, and that is simply unacceptable,” she said. “I want you to know that Hilda Solis is the Secretary of Workplace Safety, and the Department of Labor is on your side!” The Secretary also highlighted DOL's investments in training workers for jobs in the rapidly growing field of healthcare, and she highlighted DOL's regulatory efforts to protect all nurses against workplace injuries and infectious diseases.

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

DOL Has Words for Class of 2010

What do lions, tigers and cubs have in common with Vikings and colonials? The answer: DOL. These mascots represent some of our nation's



finest institutions of learning, all of which have invited Department officials to deliver the commencement address to this year's graduating class. This Saturday, Phyllis Borzi, Assistant Secretary for the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) will speak to students at George Washington University's School of Public Health and Health Services. Assistant Secretary for the Veteran's Employment and Training Service (VETS) Ray Jefferson will speak at Columbia University's School of Social Work's commencement on May 18. Labor Secretary Solis will provide the commencement address at Long Beach City College on May 26, Los Angeles City College on June 8, and the Environmental Charter High School (ECHS) on June 24. ECHS is an award-winning college-prep public charter school in Los Angeles that won this unique opportunity as a finalist in President Obama's Race to the Top High School Commencement Challenge.

- [Learn About the Challenge](#)

2010 Farmworker Justice Award

Farmworker Justice recognized Secretary



Solis on Tuesday with the 2010 Farmworker Justice Award for her commitment to helping farmworkers in the

United States. Under Solis' leadership, the department has stepped up efforts to protect all farmworkers — regardless of age or immigration status — through the Wage and Hour Division's "We Can Help" campaign; new rules protecting temporary agricultural workers in the H-2A visa program; and increased outreach and enforcement on U.S. farms. "My father worked as a laborer, a railroad worker, a Teamsters' shop steward in a battery recycling plant, and many people don't know but he was also a farmworker in the Bracero program," Solis told the crowd. "We fight for your labor rights — your safety and wages — because your life does not have a price tag."

- [View the Slideshow](#)

OSHA Head Says Whistleblower Protections Need Strengthening

Assistant Secretary for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) David Michaels spoke Tuesday about whistleblower protections. In his remarks to Professionals for the Public Interest, he lamented a "patchwork of laws" which has created "barriers that stand between many whistleblowers and justice." Yet, he touted the addition of 25 more OSHA investigators to tackle and complete more cases. Michaels also praised changes to whistleblower protections that are called for in the Protecting America's Workers Act (PAWA) now before Congress.

- [Read Michaels' Remarks](#)

Collaborating with Agencies to Support Microenterprise

Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Jane Oates joined colleagues from the Departments of Commerce, and Health and Human Services



on Tuesday at the National Microenterprise Conference and Training Institute. Presented jointly by the Small Business Administration and Association for Enterprise Opportunity, the conference brought together businesses, policymakers, and business funders to explore how small enterprises can succeed in a challenging economy. Oates discussed how

of households and the sole breadwinner in forty percent of homes, yet their wages remain twenty percent lower than their male counterparts. Secretary Solis stated her commitment to dispelling the misconception that "women's wages are just a bonus to the household," and underscored this administration's support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. The heads of several DOL agencies were also in attendance to shed light on current department initiatives, as well as learn what they can do to continue to strengthen the rights of women in the workforce.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Women's Bureau Director Meets Atlanta's Women Leaders

Explaining that "our mission is to help working women achieve their goals," Women's Bureau Director Sara Manzano-Díaz convened a roundtable discussion this week with prominent Atlanta women leaders that focused on research and policy initiatives. Keeping with the theme of helping women develop economic security, she also met with participants in the Atlanta region's "Women Going Green" project that is assisting unemployed women in becoming green business owners. While in town, Manzano-Díaz was honored at Spelman College's Leadership and Women of Color Conference, where she spoke about her own background, the importance of pay equity and breaking down barriers that women face in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) occupations.

- [View the slideshow](#)
- [Learn About WB Initiatives for FY 2010](#)

Recovery Highlights

Reemployment Works: ETA and NASWA Highlight Best Practices

A joint campaign by the department's Employment and Training Administration and the National Association of Workforce Agencies (NASWA) has been launched to highlight how states are investing their Recovery Act funds to improve services for unemployed workers. The Reemployment Works! online community utilizes webinars, blog posts, wikis, and live discussion threads to foster information-sharing and peer-to-peer technical assistance across the workforce system. The site features a series of blogs from workforce professionals at the federal, state and local levels detailing how different states are responding to the challenges of serving the unemployed.

- [Learn More](#)

DOL in Action

Garment Contractor Ordered to Pay Back Wages

The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California has ordered garment contractor Best Miracle to pay \$172,832 in overtime back wages plus interest to 47 workers. Owner Thuy Thi Le and her husband Toan Van Nguyen brazenly disregarded the Fair Labor Standards Act, devised a system of falsifying records, and used fear and bribes to prevent employees from reporting to the authorities. DOL also assessed \$24,543 in civil money penalties.

- [Read the News Release](#)

7,300 Workers in 15 States Eligible to Apply for TAA

Approximately 7,300 workers in 15 states — Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin — are eligible to apply for

businesses can connect with One Stop Centers to find talented new hires, and create training opportunities for current employees.

- [Locate a One Stop Career Center](#)

The State of Black America



2010 marked the 100 year anniversary of the National Urban League (NUL), an organization that has been at the forefront of civil rights.

In celebration of this centennial year, NUL launched its "I Am Empowered" campaign to address education, housing, health care and employment, and dedicated the annual State of Black America Report to the current job situation. "Workers were (and are still) struggling to feed their families, pay bills, and plan for retirement as unemployment levels were reaching highs that we had not seen in decades," stated Secretary Solis in her contributing essay to the report. "The administration and I remain committed to lowering the unemployment rates for all individuals. Still, we are deeply concerned about obstacles facing certain communities."

- [Read the Secretary's Essay](#)

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

OWCP Travels

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs will host a traveling resource center on May 19, 2010 from 9am to 5pm, in Simi Valley, California. Information about a new class of former employees at Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory in Santa Susana, California, added to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act's Special Exposure Cohort will be provided.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [See Other Resource Center Sites](#)
- [Get Event Details](#)

[Open Grant Opportunities](#)

EBSA — COBRA Compliance Workshop

- [May 18, 2010 — Anchorage, AK](#)

EBSA — Getting It Right - Know Your Fiduciary Responsibilities

- [May 19, 2010 — Anchorage, AK](#)

EBSA — Health Benefits Laws Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [May 19-20, 2010 — Tulsa, OK](#)

EBSA — Voluntary Fiduciary Correction

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). "As the recovery unfolds, the U.S. Department of Labor remains committed to helping all workers — including those who have been adversely impacted by trade," said Secretary Solis. Workers covered by these latest TAA certifications will be contacted with instructions on how to apply for individual benefits and services, including management and re-employment services, training in new occupational skills and trade readjustment allowances that provide income support.

- [Read the News Release](#)

News You Can Use

elaws Advisors Provide User-Friendly Information on Employment Laws

Have questions about employment laws and regulations? The answers are just a click away. DOL's elaws Advisors are interactive tools that provide the public with easy-to-follow information by simulating the question and answer interaction that a business might have with a DOL expert. The three new Advisors recently launched by DOL include: The Disability Nondiscrimination Law Advisor, that helps employers ensure their employment policies do not discriminate against people with disabilities; the H-1B Advisor, that educates companies about compliance with the H-1B Visa program requirements; and the new Union Elections Advisor, that provides information to union members and candidates about the rules governing fair union elections. Elaws are an example of Open Government and transparency at its best.

- [Read the Disability Nondiscrimination News Release](#)
- [Read the H1-B News Release](#)
- [Read the Union Election News Release](#)

DOL Improving Resources for Weapons Workers

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is launching a new enhanced version of the Site Exposure Matrices (SEM) website that will help claimants substantiate their Part E claims under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act. In addition to exposure data, the SEM contains information documenting confirmed causal relationships between certain toxic substances and diagnosed medical conditions. The enhanced public version of the SEM website will allow users to more easily identify interrelationships among Department of Energy buildings, work processes, labor categories and exposure to toxic substances.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Visit the SEM website](#)

Health Care for Young Adults

On Wednesday, Assistant Secretary for the Employee Benefits Security Administration Phyllis Borzi called on employers and private-sector health plans to immediately allow young adults to stay on their parents' health care plan until age 26, if desired. This week, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Treasury issued regulations implementing the Affordable Care Act provisions expanding coverage for adult children. "It makes good business sense, and I thank those companies who have decided to adopt this provision earlier than the September effective date."

- [Read the News Release](#)

ODEP 2010 Theme Celebrates Workforce Diversity

The official theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month: "Talent Has No Boundaries: Workforce Diversity INCLUDES Workers With Disabilities," has been unveiled by the department's Office of Disability Employment Policy. This year's theme highlights the unlimited

Program Workshop

- [May 18, 2010 \(AM\) — Portland, OR](#)
- [May 18, 2010 \(PM\) — Portland, OR](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction Contractors

- [May 21, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Construction Technical Assistance with ARRA Updates

- [May 20, 2010 — Seattle, WA](#)

OFCCP — EEO Obligations of Construction Contractors

- [May 20, 2010 — Baltimore, MD](#)

OFCCP — EEOC NJ Seminar

- [May 21, 2010 — New Brunswick, NJ](#)

OFCCP — Employment for Veterans Webinar

- [May 20, 2010 — Online](#)

OFCCP — Interagency and Community Forum

- [May 20, 2010 — San Jose, CO](#)

OFCCP — Public Forum

- [May 18-21, 2010 — Dallas, TX](#)

OFCCP — Regulatory Overview - New England Expo for Business

- [May 18, 2010 — Boston, MA](#)

OLMS — LMRDA Seminar

- [May 18, 2010 — Pewaukee, WI](#)
- [May 18, 2010 — Mandan, ND](#)

OLMS — Trustee Workshop

- [May 14, 2010 — Buffalo, NY](#)

WB — Annual Small Business and Minority Business Conference – “Accessing the New Economy”

- [May 21, 2010 — Seattle, WA](#)

WB — Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Summit

- [May 21-22, 2010 — Sarasota, FL](#)

WB — National Association of Workforce Agencies - Unemployment Insurance and the Workforce Technology Conference

- [May 19-21, 2010 — Seattle, WA](#)

WB — Pacific Northwest Apprenticeship and Education Conference

talents that people with disabilities bring to the workplace and their communities, and its early announcement will help stakeholders nationwide begin planning a series of events that showcase the skills of these invaluable workers.

- [Read the News Release](#)

EBSA Adds New E-sign Option for Benefit Plans

More than 1 million retirement and welfare plan reports are filed annually. DOL's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) announced a new e-signature option for filings processed through the EFAST2 electronic filing system. Under the new option, providers of services to plans can now get their own signing credentials and electronically submit the Form 5500 or 5500-SF on behalf of a plan. EBSA also developed additional information to help small businesses understand the new option.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Spotlight on States: Utah and Alaska

More Than \$30 Million in UI Modernization Funding for Utah and Alaska

Utah and Alaska recently benefited from the \$7 billion available in unemployment insurance (UI) modernization incentive payments to states that include certain eligibility provisions in their UI programs. The Department released \$20,332,402 to Utah for updating its laws to allow workers to use recent earnings to qualify for UI benefits. Another \$10,412,823 was awarded to Alaska for the remaining two-thirds of its share of UI funds after the state extended unemployment benefits to individuals who leave jobs for compelling family reasons. All funds were made available through the Recovery Act.

- [Read the Alaska News Release](#)
- [Read the Utah News Release](#)

Opportunities are Open: You Do What?

Many would be surprised to learn of the diverse opportunities available at the U.S. Department of Labor. Whether you are legally, scientifically, or internationally minded, we are seeking the best and the brightest to help carry out the Secretary's vision of "Good jobs for everyone." Explore the positions below or [view all](#) the exciting and rewarding opportunities at DOL.

1. Position in Washington DC Metro Area, DC
[International Relations Analyst — GS-0131-09/11](#)
DE-10-HRC-ILAB-135
Close: 05/19/2010
2. Position in Vansant, VA
[Physical Science Technician — GS-1311-05/06](#)
DE-10-PHIL-MSHA-0069
Close: 05/21/2010
3. Position in Dallas, TX
[Paralegal Specialist — GS-0950-09/11](#)
DE-10-DAL-SOL-0147
Close: 05/14/2010

- [May 19-20, 2010 — Tacoma, WA](#)

**WB — Real Women Wear Dog Tags: AZ
Military Women's Conference**

- [May 21, 2010 — Phoenix, AZ](#)

WHD — Prevailing Wage Conference

- [May 17-20, 2010 — Guam](#)

WHD — Stakeholder Forum

- [May 21, 2010 — Washington, DC](#)

Follow USDOL on 

- DOL certifies approximately 8,500 workers in 13 states as eligible to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance [05/13...
<http://bit.ly/dc3QjG> about 16 hours ago
- DOL's Employee Benefits Security Administration announces new e-signature option for Forms 5500 and 5500-SF electr...
<http://bit.ly/dvzzFh> about 16 hours ago

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