



DOL News Brief

July 1, 2010

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The Border and the Path

"There are defining moments in a nation's history, when its leaders are called upon to act decisively and irrespective of party or geography. This is such a moment." That is how Secretary Solis today characterized President Obama's call for comprehensive immigration reform. With remarks rooted in the themes of responsibility and accountability, and with American University as a backdrop, the President outlined a plan to tackle immigration issues impacting Americans from coast to coast. He also underscored the need to focus on our borders while charting a thoughtful path to citizenship. Solis added that her agency remains committed to enforcing the nation's labor laws, to ensuring that all workers are treated and paid fairly, and to holding accountable those employers who exploit the undocumented at the expense of American workers and our economy as a whole.

- [Watch the President's Remarks](#)
- [Read Secretary Solis' Statement](#)

Solis Calls on the Senate to Pass UI Extension

Secretary Solis joined Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid on Wednesday, to call on Congressional leaders to take action by extending funding for



unemployment insurance. "Already, one million Americans have lost their unemployment benefits because of political posturing in the Senate. That number will increase to more than 3 million by the end of July," she said. Solis added that we cannot stop supporting workers who are desperately seeking jobs, but — in many cases — simply cannot find them. "This recession isn't these families' fault and those Americans who have lost their jobs as a result of this recession are counting on these senators to put partisanship aside and pass this important legislation." The U.S. House of Representatives passed a UI extension bill on Thursday. Action

What's Hot

\$125 Million to Support Training Services in Community Colleges

"The \$125 million awarded today will create opportunities for working Americans to train for high-demand occupations with the help of our nationwide community college system," said Secretary Solis as she announced DOL's Community-Based Job Training Grants. "Our goal is to help workers across the country prepare for and secure good jobs, and with support from these colleges and other critical stakeholders, we'll ensure we reach a broad base of individuals in need." The grants, awarded to 41 community colleges and organizations in 26 states, will help improve the ability of community colleges to train and prepare workers for employment in high growth and other emerging industries.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Listen to the Press Conference Calls](#)

\$75 Million to Help Workers Learn While They Earn

During a visit to Denver last week for the National Association of Latino Elected Officials' annual convention, Secretary Solis announced \$75 million in Recovery Act funds for On-the-Job-Training. The District of Columbia, 41 states and three federally recognized Native American tribes will benefit from the National Emergency Grants. "This on-the-job training investment presents a tremendous opportunity for American workers and the employers who invest their time and commitment to training and hiring them," said Solis. On-the-Job Training Grants offer a method to jump start re-employment for dislocated workers experiencing prolonged unemployment by enabling employers to create training and job opportunities for these individuals.



- [Read the News Release](#)

\$27 Million to Help Workers Displaced by Oil Spill in Gulf of Mexico

The department has announced a total of \$27 million in National Emergency Grants to assist workers along the Gulf Coast who have been displaced as a result of the ongoing Deepwater Horizon oil spill. "Working families in the Gulf Coast have been dealt a tremendous blow by this oil spill, and they are facing serious long-term challenges. The grants will help those still looking for work find jobs that are good, safe and will help the region's economy get back on track," said Secretary Solis. The resources will increase states' capacity to help workers now while they seek reimbursement from BP for the costs associated with retraining and re-employment assistance.

- [Read the News Release](#)

DOL Working For You

from the Senate is expected in mid-July.

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

Sen. Robert Byrd Remembered



"Few people ever really earn the right to be called a legend; however, Sen. Robert Byrd earned it every day. For decades, the people of the Mountain State knew they had a true friend and someone who would fight for them and their families," said Secretary Solis in a statement honoring the

senior Senator of West Virginia, who died on Monday. He was 92.

Over the decades, the Senator was instrumental in creating new jobs in both emerging and traditional industries. His efforts also extended to expanding access to health care for thousands of individuals. On June 12, 2006, Byrd was recognized as the longest serving U.S. Senator and, in November 2009 he became the longest serving Member of Congress. He was a dedicated public servant whose leadership, patriotism and wisdom will be missed.

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

OSHA's Coe Tours Cleanup

Touring staging areas and worksites this week, OSHA's Cindy Coe saw firsthand evidence of DOL's efforts to ensure that cleanup workers get



proper training and protection to avoid injuries and illnesses. Meeting with local leaders in Louisiana and Mississippi, Coe, OSHA's point person for the health and safety of oil spill cleanup workers in the gulf, explained the agency's response program and reassured them of the department's commitment to workers.

"From the start, we have been actively engaged in ensuring that cleanup efforts meet OSHA standards, and we will continue to conduct the surveillance and sampling needed to ensure that workers tackling the cleanup are kept safe and healthy," she said.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Health Rules Top Update to Advisory Council

Assistant Secretary

West Point Beckons for Gadsden Job Corps Grad

Eighteen-year-old David "Nathan" Chesnut is a special young man who says he "likes to overcome challenges" and succeed.



Chesnut completed his high school education with a higher than 4.0 GPA while concurrently graduating from the Gadsden, Alabama, Job Corps' culinary arts program, where he made a difficult battered fried shrimp recipe his signature dish.

Now his outstanding achievements have landed him an appointment to the prestigious United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, where only 1,300 out of every 10,000 applicants are accepted yearly. But as Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) told the Academy, "I believe Nathan possesses the maturity and determination necessary to succeed in his goal of becoming an officer in the United States Army."

Chesnut said Job Corps "made me buckle down and achieve success."

Around DOL

OSHA Holds Virtual Stakeholder Meeting on Combustible Dust

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) held its first-ever virtual stakeholder Web chat on Monday. The topic: combustible dust workplace hazards. More than 410 participants took part, providing their input as the agency develops a new safety standard. Combustible dust can be comprised of fine particles, fibers, chips, chunks or flakes that, under certain conditions, can cause a fire or explosion when suspended in air. Since 1980, more than 130 workers have been killed and more than 780 injured in combustible dust explosions.

- [Read the Web Chat Transcript](#)
- [Provide Comments Through July 7](#)

DOL in Action

DOL Grants Aid Homeless Female Vets and Vets Families

More than \$5 million in grants were awarded to aid homeless female veterans and veterans with families, the department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) announced. The 26 grants in 14 states and the District of Columbia will provide job training, counseling and placement services to expedite the reintegration of homeless female veterans and veterans with families into the labor force. "The Department of Labor is committed to doing its part to ensure that these remarkable women are put on a path to successfully transition back into the working world," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Listen to the Press Conference Call](#)

MSHA Acts Following Release of Inspector General Report

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) responded Thursday to an investigation by the Labor Department's Office of Inspector General (IG) that highlighted flaws in the agency's past implementation of one of its toughest enforcement tools – the authority, known as pattern of violations (POV), to specifically target mines with a recurring history of serious safety and health violations. MSHA had set limits on the number of mines it targeted for potential POV because of resource limitations. When the IG released its findings, MSHA acted quickly. "Upon receiving the alert



Phyllis C. Borzi on Wednesday provided an update to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) Advisory

Council on health reform, regulatory initiatives, and other activities of the Employee Benefits Security Administration. She informed the group that the health agenda includes a soon to be published preventive care regulation under the Affordable Care Act. Topping the retirement agenda are regulations on disclosure of 401(k) type fees to plan officials by service providers.

On fee disclosure, Borzi said, "at some point we will move forward but we will need to evaluate what is happening on the Hill and whether the legislation is still in play."

Other upcoming regulatory initiatives will include a joint hearing with the Treasury Department on lifetime income options; participant benefits statement; the definition of a fiduciary; claims and appeal procedures; and a checklist of target date best practices for plan fiduciaries.

Jefferson at SHRM Conference

Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Service Ray Jefferson traveled to San Diego for the Society for Human Resource



Management (SHRM) 2010 Annual Conference. He joined the likes of Al Gore, Steve Forbes, and many others who spoke to more than 9,000 human resource professionals from around the country. Jefferson discussed the importance of incorporating veterans into the workforce, and reminded attendees that, "one life can make a difference."

- [Watch the Conference](#)

DOL Greens the Garage



Representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) and Philips Wide-Lite joined DOL on Monday in announcing the installation of LED

(light-emitting diode) state of the art lighting in the Frances Perkins Building. Partnered with DOE for the project, this interagency collaboration demonstrates the federal government's commitment to implement cost-effective energy management.

memorandum from the inspector general, I ordered inspectors to make an additional visit to every one of the coal-producing mines on the list that the IG said were not put on potential POV status in 2009 because of resource issues," said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Underground Investigation of Upper Big Branch Mine Begins

Nearly three months after the deadliest coal mine explosion in decades, accident investigation teams entered the Upper Big Branch mine in Raleigh County, W.Va., to begin their physical probe of the underground operation. Teams conducted a two-day walk-through of the mine on June 25 and 28 and, the following day, began the painstaking task of mapping its underground workings. Toxic gases and the threat of fire had prevented investigators from going underground earlier. "A critical component of this investigation has now begun," said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. "Along with the already extensive witness interviews that have been conducted, the physical examination of the mine hopefully will provide answers to the cause of a tragic explosion that has affected so many lives."

- [Read the News Release](#)

Prominent Atlanta Engineering Firm Restoring Losses to 401(k) Plan

Owners of an Atlanta engineering firm, Williams-Russell & Johnson, have agreed to restore \$150,129 in lost earnings plus accrued interest to the company's 401(k) retirement plan. The company has also agreed to pay a \$30,673 penalty for violating the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). An investigation by the Employee Benefits Security Administration determined that the losses occurred when the owners withheld \$262,370 in employee contributions and participant loan repayments but failed to forward them to the plan in a timely manner. While the contributions and loan repayments were later repaid to the plan, this consent judgment restores funds that the plan would have earned if the fiduciaries had complied with ERISA rules.

- [Read the News Release](#)

\$1.5 Million Grant to Assist Workers Affected by Agriculture Industry

Approximately 385 migrant and seasonal farm workers affected by layoffs at numerous orchards and farms in New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico will now be assisted by a \$1,573,542 grant announced by DOL this week. "This grant will help ensure that migrant and seasonal farmworkers do not fall through the cracks, and give them access to the re-employment and retraining services needed to find jobs in emerging local industries," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

\$2.5 Million Grant to Assist Workers in Texas Affected by Layoffs

The department has released a \$2,545,084 grant to assist 200 workers affected by layoffs across multiple industries in eastern Texas. "This grant will help Texans receive the re-employment and re-training services that are crucial to successfully finding new jobs in emerging industries," said Secretary Solis. Awarded to the Texas Workforce Commission, the grant will provide affected workers with access to services that may include skills assessment, basic skills training, individual career counseling and occupational skills training.

- [Read the News Release](#)

\$2 Million Grant to Aid Louisiana Workers Impacted by Layoffs

Services to workers affected by layoffs that occurred throughout multiple

"Secretary Solis is eager to continue building on the Labor Department's record of being an 'Energy Star' certified building. Though installing 19 LED light fixtures at the Frances Perkins Building may seem small, the 75 percent electricity savings is not, and serves as precisely the kind of energy leadership the President is requiring of all federal agencies," said Charlotte Hayes, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Administration and Management.

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

"Race to the Top" Commencement

The Environmental Charter High School (ECHS) in Lawndale, California was a top finalist in the President's "Race to the Top" Commencement Challenge. In recognition of being one of six high school finalists nationwide, ECHS won the opportunity for a member of the President's cabinet, Secretary Solis, to deliver this year's commencement speech to the 2010 graduating class. "You are putting the name of your school on the map at a local and national level. Your school exemplifies what a quality education is all about," said Solis, speaking to the 65 graduating seniors last week.

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

[Open Funding Opportunities](#)

Check out the grant opportunities with DOL.

EBSA — COBRA Compliance Workshop

- [July 13, 2010 — Salt Lake City, UT](#)

EBSA — Health Benefits Laws Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [July 14-15, 2010 — New York, NY](#)

EBSA — Understanding Your Fiduciary Responsibilities Under ERISA

- [July 13, 2010 — Salt Lake City, UT](#)

EBSA — Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program Workshop

- [July 7, 2010 — Lexington, KY](#)
- [July 12, 2010 — Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [July 13, 2010 — Silver Spring, MD](#)

MSHA — A Miner's Town Hall Meeting: Seek Refuge-Your Third Line of Defense

- [July 14, 2010 — Greensburg, PA](#)

MSHA — Kentucky Mine Safety and Training Competition

industries in the state of Louisiana will be able to continue thanks to a \$2,031,400 National Emergency Grant increment. This second increment of a larger grant, awarded to the Louisiana Workforce Commission, will continue assistance to workers served under the initial award, and provide help to 600 additional Lockheed Martin workers affected by layoffs, as a result of NASA's retirement of the Space Shuttle Program.

- [Read the News Release](#)

\$1.4 Million Grant to Assist Dislocated Workers in Ohio

A \$1,376,673 grant has been provided by the department to assist 507 dislocated workers, who either are currently receiving intensive services and training from the state of Ohio, or are on waiting lists due to funding shortages. Awarded to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the grant will be operated by the Area 2 Summit County Job and Family Services; the Area 13 Hamilton County Job and Family Services; and the Area 18 Trumbull County Job and Family Services. Affected workers will be provided dislocated worker services such as skills assessment, basic skills training, individual career counseling and occupational skills training.

- [Read the News Release](#)

\$240,000 Grant to Continue Storm Recovery Efforts in West Virginia

In the wake of flooding that struck southern West Virginia in May 2009, the department has announced a \$240,000 National Emergency Grant increment to help recovery efforts. "These funds will provide additional assistance to support clean up and repair efforts in the communities affected by last year's flooding," said Secretary Solis. On May 15, 2009, the Federal Emergency Management Agency declared the following counties in West Virginia eligible for their Public Assistance program: McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Raleigh and Wyoming. The declaration was later amended to include Calhoun, Gilmer, Lewis, Roane, Upshur and Wirt counties.

- [Read the News Release](#)

\$1.4 Million to Assist Dislocated Workers in Wisconsin

"This grant will ensure that more than 1,600 workers in Wisconsin, who lost their jobs through no fault of their own and are currently on waiting lists for re-employment and re-training services, will be able to receive the kind of help they need and deserve," said Secretary Solis, announcing a \$1,377,250 grant for dislocated workers in the state. The grant will help provide services such as skills assessment, basic skills training, individual career counseling and occupational skills training.

- [Read the News Release](#)

\$470,000 to Aid Florida Workers Impacted by Manufacturing Layoffs

Citrus Levy Marion Regional Workforce Development Board Inc. will receive a \$470,835 National Emergency Grant supplemental award to provide services to laid-off manufacturing workers. "Today's supplemental funds will continue to help Floridians with job placement assistance, skills training and other re-employment services to help them get started in new careers," said Secretary Solis. The supplemental funds will provide for the continuation of re-employment assistance to 464 workers and help extend services to an additional 111 workers.

- [Read the News Release](#)

\$2.6 Million Grant Released to Assist Workers in Rural Oregon

The department has awarded a \$2,571,600 grant to the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, to assist 370 workers affected by documented and projected layoffs. The funds will provide Oregon with the flexibility to serve other workers affected by layoffs during the grant's 12-month period of performance. A key focus of the grant will be

- [July 13-15, 2010 — Pikeville, KY](#)

MSHA — Seek Refuge: Your Third Line of Defense

- [July 14, 2010 — Greensburg, PA](#)

OFCCP — AAP Development for ARRA Contractors & Preparing for a Desk Audit

- [July 8, 2010 — Baltimore, MD](#)

OFCCP — AAP Development Workshop

- [July 14, 2010 — Pittsburgh, PA](#)

OFCCP — Agency Update: Long Island Industry Liaison Group Meeting

- [July 14, 2010 — Farmingdale, NY](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance for Construction Contractors

- [July 2, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Supply & Service Contractors

- [July 9, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [July 13, 2010 — Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [July 14, 2010 — Boston, MA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar Requirements Under ADA

- [July 16, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar: Supply & Service

- [July 7, 2010 — Boston, MA](#)

OFCCP — EEO Obligations of ARRA Construction Contractors

- [July 15, 2010 — Baltimore, MD](#)

OFCCP — Informational & Outreach Forum

- [July 9, 2010 — El Paso, TX](#)

OFCCP — So You Have Been Scheduled for a Compliance Evaluation: How to Respond When You Get the Scheduling Letter

- [July 14, 2010 — Denver, CO](#)

OLMS — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [July 13, 2010 — Colfax, NC](#)

OLMS — Webinar: OLMS Presents the Electronic Filing System: Filing Form LM-2 Reports

- [July 15, 2010 — Washington, DC](#)

OSHA — MACOSH Meeting

- [July 13-14, 2010 — Long Beach,](#)

providing workers in rural Oregon affected by manufacturing layoffs with training to help them transition to strong areas of the regional economy, including lumber and wood products, agriculture and renewable energy power generation.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Recovery Highlights

Grant Exceeding \$906,000 to Assist Dislocated Workers in New York

A grant in the amount of \$906,538 in Recovery Act funds was released by the department to specifically assist 400 dislocated workers who either are currently receiving services and training, or are on waiting lists due to funding shortages. "As our nation's economic recovery takes hold, New Yorkers deserve access to training and other services that will lead to jobs with family supporting wages, stability and a real chance for advancement," said Secretary Solis. The grant, funded by the Recovery Act, will provide the state with additional funding to provide workers with access to dislocated worker services.

- [Read the News Release](#)

\$2.2 Million to Assist North Carolinians with Health Insurance

This week, the department announced a \$2.2 million grant to assist eligible individuals with 80 percent of premium costs for qualified health insurance programs. An estimated 2,400 unemployed individuals in North Carolina will be provided with partial premium payments for health insurance coverage. "These additional funds will help North Carolinians continue their families' health coverage as they seek new employment and get back on their feet," said Secretary Solis. The funds were made available through the Recovery Act.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Spotlight on States

\$6.3 Million for Iowa Workers Affected by Food Industry Layoffs

The department announced a \$6,255,784 grant to assist 800 workers affected by layoffs at John Morrell and Co. as well as four secondarily-affected companies, all located in Sioux City, Iowa. Awarded to Iowa Workforce Development, the grant will provide affected workers with access to dislocated worker services, which may include skills assessment, basic skills training, individual career counseling and occupational skills training. Additional funding up to the amount approved will be made available as the state demonstrates a continued need for assistance.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Opportunities are Open: OIG in 3 Great Cities

The Office of the Inspector General's Office of Audit is responsible for administering a comprehensive audit program for assessing departmental, contractor and grantee organizations and operations. Auditors direct the performance of various audits including financial statements and program results. Explore the positions below or [view all](#) the rewarding careers at DOL.

1. Position in (Metro) Chicago, Ill. Area
[Auditor](#)
DE-10-OIG-OA-16
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[CA](#)

OSHA — Hydraulics Level I (Hydraulics Training: Safety & Practical)

- [July 13, 2010 — Cullman, AL](#)

OSHA — Seminar on Florida's Workers' Compensation Laws and Workplace Safety

- [July 13, 2010 — Fort Meyers, FL](#)
- [July 15, 2010 — Miami, FL](#)

2. Position in San Francisco County, Calif.

[Auditor](#)

DE-10-OIG-OA-16

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3. Position in Dallas, Texas

[Auditor](#)

DE-10-OIG-OA-16

Close: 07/19/2010

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