



DOL News Brief

October 28, 2010

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Solis Named Alumni Guardian



Secretary Solis was honored this week by her alma mater – the University of Southern California – with the Alumni Guardian Award. Solis received

the award from The School of Policy, Planning, and Development and the SPPD Alumni Association for her accomplishments, dedication and leadership toward the betterment of the community and the world around it. At the award ceremony, Solis said, "I'm grateful to be living this moment because this award is proof that regardless of your economic circumstances, regardless of your parents' educational background and many other obstacles in life – if you work hard enough, anything is possible in this country." Solis earned a Master of Public Administration from USC in 1981.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

What's Hot

New Toolkit Helps Companies Hire More Veterans

A new employer toolkit is now available on the Labor Department's "America's Heroes at Work" website. Filled with useful information on hiring veterans, the free toolkit is designed to assist and educate employers who want to include veterans and wounded warriors in their recruitment and hiring initiatives. Featuring a straightforward six-step process, it pinpoints helpful tools and outlines important steps to take when designing a veterans hiring initiative. "The launch of this toolkit is especially timely given the October observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said Kathleen Martinez, assistant secretary for disability employment policy. "Disabled veterans, including those experiencing 'invisible' wounds of war like traumatic brain injury and combat stress, are an important segment of the disability population that needs our support when transitioning to civilian employment."



- [View the Toolkit](#)
- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Learn More about America's Heroes at Work](#)

WHD Administrators Remembered

The Department of Labor mourns the recent deaths of two former Wage and Hour Division administrators: Betty Murphy and William Otter. Nominated by President Richard Nixon, Murphy served as WHD administrator from January 1974 to February 1975. A reporter turned trial lawyer, she later went on to become the first woman on the National Labor Relations Board. She died on October 16 at the age of 77.



Grant to Assist Native Americans Affected by Fishing Industry Layoffs

A \$3,390,568 Labor Department grant will assist nearly 300 workers affected by fishing industry layoffs in the Lummi Nation, located near Bellingham, Wash. "Layoffs in the fishing industry constitute a serious crisis for this community," said Secretary Solis. "Just as we are committed to helping workers in other communities across the country, we will ensure these workers get the opportunity to acquire the skills needed to promptly enter good jobs that pay family-supporting wages and offer real opportunities for advancement." Awarded to and operated by the Lummi Nation, this grant will assist fishermen dislocated as a result of the decline in sockeye salmon.

- [Read the News Release](#)

DOL Working for You

Hundreds of Veterans, Many Disabled, Find Employment in Michigan

Nearly 375 Michigan veterans, mostly disabled, have found jobs in the past two years, thanks to the determination of Air Force veteran Carrie Headworth. Disabled herself, Headworth works for that state's disabled veterans outreach program funded by the U.S.



William Otter was nominated to head the WHD by President Ronald Reagan. He served from February 1981 to March 1985. Before entering government, he was an attorney in private practice, mostly involved in negotiating

collective bargaining contracts.
Otter passed away on

September 13. He was 87.

DOL Pilot Targets Rural Veterans

The Veterans' Employment and Training Service launched a pilot program this week in Washington state that will provide veterans in rural areas with better access to employment programs and services. "Veterans in rural areas are an underserved population, and we want to ensure they're aware of, and have access to, the employment programs and services available to them. This is an integral part of helping them obtain meaningful careers," said Assistant Secretary for VETS Ray Jefferson. "Access to federal, state and local government resources can be limited in rural areas, so government must be more proactive in reaching out to serve this population of veterans."

- [Read the News Release](#)

Prevention Programs Good for the Bottom Line

Assistant Labor Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels told steel manufacturers this week that DOL's effort



to get employers to adopt an Injury and Illness Prevention Program has the "potential to transform workplaces across America." Instead of waiting for a government inspection or a tragedy to address workplace hazards, employers should develop a comprehensive, effective plan to find the safety and health hazards in their facilities that might injure or kill workers — and then fix those hazards. Michaels says the thousands of companies in America that already have such programs "enjoy higher efficiency, greater worker productivity and lower costs that make their workplaces more profitable and competitive."

- [Read Michaels' Remarks](#)

Vision for Economic Growth

Working across departments is the best way to leverage resources and get things done. This week, Assistant Secretary

Department of Labor. She uses the military's basic training methods when counseling clients on approaching their job searches. "I teach them time management skills – just like being ready for roll call and chow," a form of time management while on duty, she said. "Veterans count, yesterday, today and tomorrow," said Headworth. "Our bonds don't end when we separate from the military, they carry on."



Job Corps Instructor Overcomes Disabilities to Teach Youth



Electrical instructor Robert Ponzo is no stranger to overcoming disabilities. Ponzo underwent multiple surgeries and extensive physical therapy as a youth, but persevered to graduate with an electrical wiring certificate from New York's Delaware Valley Job Corps in 2000. However, a disabling back injury suffered on a construction site ended his promising electrician career. A mentor with the Home Builders Institute suggested that Ponzo use his skills to teach others, which led to his applying for a position at the Woodstock, Md., Job Corps Center. He recently celebrated his five-year anniversary as an instructor there. "I kept a mindset not to feel sorry for myself," Ponzo said of overcoming his disabilities which led to a job that he loves. "I realize I am changing young lives for the better every day."

Around DOL

Secretary's Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship Comes to DOL

Good decisions are made easier based on the advice of knowledgeable advisors. This week, the newly appointed members of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship came to the department's headquarters for their first meeting. Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employment and Training Administration Jane Oates joined the group on Thursday to discuss the importance of their work, including the need to create more opportunities for women and minorities within Registered Apprenticeship programs. The public meeting was an opportunity for the committee to begin developing recommendations on the development and implementation of policies, legislation and regulations affecting apprenticeship; the preparation of the American workforce for sustained employment through employment and training programs; the development of measures that foster quality workplaces that are safe, healthy and fair; and strategies that meet the competitive labor demands of a global economy.



- [View the Slideshow](#)

DOL Agencies Come Together to Discuss Youth with Disabilities

The United States' long-term competitiveness is linked to its ability to engage all workers, including those with disabilities. Helping more young people with disabilities enter the workforce is especially important. As part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the department held a roundtable



for Employment and Training Jane Oates joined Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development John Fernandez at the Southeast Workforce and Economic

Development Conference in Atlanta. Dubbed "Beyond the Storms, Achieving Competitiveness in a Changing World," and hosted by the Southern Economic Development Council, the event was an opportunity for both assistant secretaries to discuss the administration's vision for sustained economic growth. Oates and Fernandez were joined by public and private leaders from regions that had experienced major worker dislocations. The group discussed strategies for overcoming such events, and preparation to better anticipate them.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

SIGN Me Up!



Throughout the month of October, more than 50 enthusiastic and motivated DOL employees attended sign-language classes in the department's

headquarters. Taught by DOL's deaf and hard of hearing staff, lessons included finger spelling, work and government related vocabulary, as well as everyday phrases. Adrienne Thal, a policy advisor and sign-language instructor for the Office of Disability Employment Policy, said, "It was wonderful to see so many employees motivated to learn sign-language and communicate in a different way." Sign-language classes were one of the many ways that DOL employees celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

[Open Funding Opportunities](#)

Check out the grant opportunities with DOL. MSHA — 5th Annual Southeastern US Mine Safety and Health Conference

- [November 3-5 — Birmingham, AL](#)

OFCCP — 12 Reasons Why Contractors Get in Trouble

- [November 12 — Richmond, VA](#)

discussion to explore ways to improve the education and employment outcomes of youth with disabilities and expand the capacity of the public workforce investment system to serve them. Input from the roundtable will be used to help DOL develop guidance to the public workforce investment system to increase the percentage of youth with disabilities who receive postsecondary degrees or certificates, high school diplomas, GEDs, and other education or employment objectives.

Bon Appétit! Primrose Judges Top Chefs

Job Corps' National Director Edna Primrose judged healthy and nutritious meals prepared by national teams of Job Corps food service managers at a Job Corps "Top Chef Competition" last week. "The caliber of each dish was exceptional," said Primrose after tasting entries in categories such as side dishes, main entrees and desserts. Other judges included the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan and economist Jim Barham, as well as a corporate chef and Job Corps students and staff. The ultimate goal in providing nutritious meals at centers, Primrose said, is to help students receive the best possible foundation to a healthy lifestyle after graduating. Besides the competition, managers received a comprehensive training seminar with leading chefs and experts, tested new approaches to healthy cooking in the kitchen, and developed new menus and options for Job Corps centers. They also met with Samuel Kass, White House chef and senior policy adviser for Healthy Food Initiatives and toured First Lady Michelle Obama's organic gardens.



- [View the Winning Chefs and Dishes](#)

DOL in Action

Gun Powder Manufacturer Cited After Deadly Explosion

Following an investigation into the causes of a deadly explosion in May, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued 54 workplace safety and health citations with penalties totaling \$1.2 million to gun powder substitute manufacturer Black Mag LLC. The explosion took the lives of two workers who had been on the job for only a month. "The fines levied here pale in comparison to the value of the two lives lost," said Secretary Solis. "Nonetheless, this was a tragedy that easily could have been prevented had the employer valued the health and safety of its employees."

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

Re-employment Assistance for Minnesotans Impacted by Layoffs

A \$64,499 National Emergency Grant from the department will continue services to 198 workers affected by layoffs at BAE Systems Inc. in Fridley, Minn. "Continued access to quality training and job search services is a crucial component in helping Minnesotans find re-employment in today's challenging labor market," said Jane Oates, assistant secretary for the department's Employment and Training Administration. These supplemental funds, awarded to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, will continue the delivery of re-employment assistance to workers included in the initial award, as well as workers added after the project's initial implementation.

- [Read the News Release](#)

OFCCP — AAP Development & Preparing for a Desk Audit

- [November 4 — Baltimore, MD](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [November 2 — Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [November 4 — Greenville, SC](#)
- [November 9 — Philadelphia, PA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction Contractors

- [November 8 — Honolulu, HI](#)
- [November 9 — Mountainside, NJ](#)
- [November 10 — New York, NY](#)
- [November 10 — Buffalo, NY](#)
- [November 10 — San Francisco, CA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Supply and Service Contractors

- [November 2 — Mountainside, NJ](#)
- [November 3 — Boston, MA](#)
- [November 3 — Pittsburgh, PA](#)
- [November 3 — Nashville, TN](#)
- [November 4 — New York, NY](#)
- [November 4 — Hartford, CT](#)
- [November 4 — Buffalo, NY](#)
- [November 5 — Richmond, VA](#)
- [November 10 — San Juan, PR](#)
- [November 10 — Boston, MA](#)
- [November 10 — Nashville, TN](#)

OFCCP — Reasonable Accommodations Under the ADA

- [October 29 — Richmond, VA](#)

WHD — Prevailing Wage Conference

- [November 2-4 — Cleveland, OH](#)

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[21 minutes ago](#)
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[about 23 hours ago](#)

New Standards to Assist Workers for Growing Health Care Sector

The DOL's Employment and Training Administration has approved national guidelines for apprenticeship standards that will enable employers to use ETA's Registered Apprenticeship program to train workers for careers in the long-term care sector of the health care industry. "The direct support professional occupation represents an important segment of the health care workforce, providing assistance and support to persons with disabilities, the elderly and individuals with long-term illnesses," said Assistant Secretary for ETA Jane Oates. "The establishment of these new guidelines creates a career pathway for health care workers that can be implemented throughout the country."

- [Read the News Release](#)

Opportunities are Open: Did You Know?

Did you know that the Department of Labor offers a wealth of diverse career opportunities? Whether your background is in business, economics or even science, we are looking for talented individuals to help serve and protect American workers. Explore the positions below or [view all](#) the rewarding careers at the department.

1. Position in Washington, D.C. / Metro Area
[Auditor](#)
DE-10-HRC-EBSA-0488
Close: 11/04/2010
2. Two positions in Washington, D.C. / Metro Area
[Medical Officer \(Occupational Medicine\)](#)
DE-10-OSHA-146
Close: 11/16/2010
3. Position in Philadelphia Metro Area, Pa.
[Economic Assistant](#)
DE-10-PHIL-BLS-0113-OC
Close: 03/21/2011

