



DOL News Brief

December 16, 2010

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Opening Doors



The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness elected Secretary Solis to lead the charge of ending homelessness in America. At a meeting

of the council, members from 19 federal agencies chose Solis to chair the council which, along with state and local partners, is tasked with implementing Opening Doors, the first-ever federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. "The bottom line is that the best defense against homelessness is a job that pays. That is why the Department of Labor is leading efforts to prevent and end homelessness with job training and employment services for this underserved population," said Solis. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius was elected vice chair.

- Read the News Release
• View the Slideshow
• Visit the USICH Website
• Read Opening Doors

Telework: The Triple Bottom Line - People, Profits, Planet

More than 75 people from the public and private sectors participated in "Telework: The Triple Bottom Line - People, Profits, Planet," last



week at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. The conference, sponsored by the department's Women's Bureau, was a collaborative effort with the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Clean Air Counts and Life Meets Work to promote telework as a solution to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and improve the quality of life for workers. Speakers included Illinois elected officials and corporate representatives from Microsoft, McDonald's, Cisco and Ryan Inc. who shared

What's Hot

Road To Recovery

Learning what programs are working is an important step in replicating successful employment efforts nationwide. This week, the department hosted the two-day Road to Recovery: Strategies for ReEmployment summit in Arlington, Va. More than 900 workforce development professionals, labor leaders, employers, state officials and others from nearly every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico shared employment strategies and local programs that are getting people into jobs. "Your local and regional efforts and leadership have really helped boost job opportunities and I appreciate your partnership and innovative action to support workers nationwide during these challenging times," said Secretary Solis as she addressed conference participants. She also stressed the urgent need for Congress to renew extended unemployment benefits and the expanded Trade Adjustment Assistance program to continue helping workers who lose jobs through no fault of their own.

- View the Slideshow
• Read the Blog Posts
• Read the Tweets
• Watch Secretary Solis' Remarks
• Read the Secretary's Speech

Solis, Harkin Team Up to Combat Child Labor



Secretary Solis and U.S. Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa unveiled three reports on child labor and/or forced labor around the world at a press conference held at the department on Wednesday. "The Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor" report focuses on the efforts of certain U.S. trade beneficiary countries to implement commitments on legislation,

enforcement, policies and social programs. "The List of Goods Produced by Child or Forced Labor" is an updated report of goods and countries that use forced labor, child labor or both in violation of international standards. The revised "List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor under Executive Order 13126" proposes changes to the report and invites public comment for 60 days. "We consider the eradication of the worst forms of child labor to be a matter of urgency, and hope these reports will assist governments around the world in taking effective next steps to eliminate the exploitation of children," said Solis. She also announced \$40 million in grants to combat exploitive child labor in 12 countries. The grants will fund programs that will provide children access to educational and training alternatives, help improve the livelihoods of their households and build local capacity to sustain efforts to eliminate exploitive child labor.

- Read the News Release
• Read the Child Labor Grant Release

their telework best practices.



The event was timely since President Obama signed the 2010 Telework Expansion Act a few days later. The Act will allow federal agencies

to enhance their telework policies, while making government more efficient in all areas. "This bill is a common-sense measure that will save money down the road by reducing agencies' overhead costs, cutting energy consumption and improving productivity," said Secretary Solis. "Private sector companies such as IBM have saved as much as \$56 million annually in reduced office space by allowing employees to telework."

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [View the Webcast](#)
- [Visit the Report Website](#)

DOL Working For You

DOL NEG Grant Helps Former Banker Start New Business

When he lost his international banking job due to the recession, New Yorker David Alperin reinvented himself through a DOL National Emergency Grant program designed to help financial service industry workers. After getting career guidance at a One-Stop Career Center, Alperin used the program to pay for one year of classes at the Fashion Institute of Technology where he graduated with an associate's degree in jewelry design. A stint working with a clothing designer, coupled with his degree and previous business expertise, led to his eventually opening Goose Barnacle, a Brooklyn boutique store featuring clothing, jewelry and art works. Alperin said the program "enabled me to pursue a passionate dream" and "learn a skill that translated into a business."



- [View the Alperin Video News Release](#)

DOL Program Helps Homeless Veteran Find Work



When the case of a homeless Army veteran in Iowa who was battling substance abuse came to Jan Broers' attention, she immediately swung into action. Thanks to a \$200,000 grant from DOL to Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa, case worker Broers was able to provide the veteran with a place to live, medical attention, and a stipend for his education and training under the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. She helped the veteran get a job at a local convenience store, where he has since been promoted to a management position. Boers said the department-funded program has helped more than 100 homeless veterans. "It is a fabulous opportunity that DOL provides these individuals to get back up on their feet," Boers added.

DOL HQ Goes International

The Department of Labor, Department of Education and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development held a working meeting from December 15 - 17 at DOL's Frances Perkins Building to discuss preliminary findings related to the skills and educational competencies of adults in developing countries. Attendees included representatives from 27 countries, several international organizations and approximately 75 experts. A finalized report discussing the findings will be released in 2013.

ODEP Has IDEAS

Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Office of Disability Employment Policy Kathy Martinez headlined the opening session of the 2010 Interagency Disability



Educational Awareness Showcase earlier this week. IDEAS is the federal government's premier annual conference on Section 508 compliance and accessible workplace technology for people with disabilities. This year, ODEP co-hosted the two-day event with the General Services Administration. Martinez joined Kareem Dale, White House special assistant to the president for disability policy; Christine Griffin, deputy director of the Office of Management Budget; Denise Pease, GSA regional administrator; and moderator Tony Coelho (former U.S. Congressman and co-author of the Americans with Disabilities Act) at the opening plenary. The group discussed President Obama's July 2010 Executive Order, which establishes the federal government as a model employer for individuals with disabilities; explored model recruitment and hiring strategies for agencies seeking to increase their employment of people with disabilities; and

Around DOL

New Members of Safety and Health Advisory Council

Secretary Solis' emphasis on worker safety and health was enhanced by her appointment of five new members to the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health. The new appointees, who will serve two-year terms, are leaders in the fields of medicine, academia and safety program development. They will join seven current members. The 12-member committee meets at least two times a year, with the next meeting January 19 - 20, 2011. On the agenda: discussion of workplace issues including the Gulf of Mexico oil spill cleanup, injury and illness prevention programs, and recordkeeping. "I am confident these members, representing the interests of labor, management, safety and health professionals and the public, will use their expertise to provide valuable advice and recommendations on important workplace safety and health issues. We share the goal of good, safe jobs for all American workers," said Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)
 - [Learn More About NACOSH](#)
-

highlighted accessibility as a tool for fostering a flexible, inclusive and productive federal workforce.

Aging, Disability & Employment



Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Office of Disability Employment Policy Kathy Martinez recently joined a group of experts for a roundtable discussion

about the disability implications for an aging workforce. ODEP joined with the National Technical Assistance and Research Leadership Center to explore the intersection of aging, disability and employment. The NTARLC was established in 2007 through a cooperative agreement with the agency. "We encourage the workforce development system to adopt strategies that make the systems more universally accessible for all job seekers," said Martinez.

Solis Speaks with Tribal Leaders

Tribal leaders from across the nation met at the White House on Thursday to discuss issues that impact their communities.



Secretary Solis, along with Secretaries Shaun Donovan (Housing and Urban Development) and Ray LaHood (Transportation) led a roundtable discussion on "Economic Development, Housing and Infrastructure." Solis highlighted the Labor Department's work with the Native American Employment Council and other Tribal communities that are providing workforce and skills training, along with career counseling and job placement assistance.

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Read the President's Remarks](#)
- [Watch the Opening Session](#)

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

[Open Funding Opportunities](#)



The Department of Labor is holding a competition for grants to carry out original research projects, which can help inform the

DOL in Action

DOL Recovers Nearly \$1.1 Million for Plumbers Pension Plan

The Labor Department has obtained a consent judgment requiring C.S. Capital Management Inc. of Atlanta, Ga., and its owner, Paul H. Saylor, to restore \$1,090,000 to the Plumbers and Pipefitters National Pension Plan as restitution for improperly investing \$25 million in risky private placement bonds. The firm also was ordered to pay \$109,990 in fines to the federal government. The plan covers more than 123,000 participants nationwide. "These defendants violated their duty to responsibly manage the plan's investments," said Secretary Solis. "Our goal is to return money improperly managed and invested so it can be available to pay pension benefits."

- [Read the News Release](#)

OSHA Fines Environmental Company \$787,000 Following Explosion

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited the hazardous waste management processor, WRR Environmental Services Co., for failing to implement measures to prevent potentially catastrophic chemical fires and explosions at its facility in Eau Claire, Wis. OSHA has issued 14 willful and one serious citation to the company with proposed penalties of \$787,000 for failing to fully develop and implement a process safety management program at the facility. This action stems from the agency's investigation of a June 29 explosion and fire at the facility. "WRR Environmental Services put its workers in grave danger, and it is truly fortunate that no one was killed or severely injured in these incidents. The company's blatant disregard for workers' health and safety is not acceptable," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

DOL Obtains Default Judgment in California Garment Case

A U.S. district court judge in Los Angeles ruled in favor of the Labor Department in a case against a Westminster, Calif., garment manufacturer and its owner; awarding a total of \$887,554 to current and former workers. Judge A. Howard Matz approved the department's request for a default judgment against Laundry Room Clothing Inc., owner Milton Kaneda and principal Sharon Kaneda. They failed to pay \$380,824 in unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation due to 115 low-wage workers. The default judgment also awards the workers \$506,730 in liquidated damages. "Low-wage workers, such as those employed at garment shops throughout Southern California, are particularly vulnerable," said Secretary Solis. "The Department of Labor will not hesitate to hold employers accountable for paying their employees the wages they have earned."

- [Read the News Release](#)

WHD Investigating Residential Care and Group Homes in NC

In an effort to ensure compliance with the federal minimum wage, overtime, recordkeeping and child labor rules, the Wage and Hour Division strike force has begun visiting residential care and group homes in the Charlotte and Raleigh, N.C., areas. Potentially impacting more than 2,100 workers, violations can result in payment of back wages for up to two years, and in some cases, monetary penalties and liquidated damages. For violators in multi-establishment organizations, remedies will be imposed enterprise-wide. "Our goal is to protect the low-wage workers in this industry who have little recourse otherwise when they are shorted on the pay that they deserve under federal law," explained Rick Blaylock, Wage and Hour Division district director in Raleigh.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Granite Quarry in Maine Issued Temporary Restraining Order

department's policy formulation or execution. Topics of interest include employment and training programs, and especially impacts of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Please visit the [2011 Scholars Program Announcement](#).

MSHA — Partners in Safety: Missouri Mine Safety and Health Conference

- [January 13-14 — Osage Beach, MO](#)

MSHA — Public Hearing on Proposed Rule to End Black Lung

- [January 11 — Evansville, IN](#)

OFCCP — 12 Reasons Why Contractors Get in Trouble

- [December 21 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — 503 and the ADA

- [January 21 — Petaluma, CA](#)

OFCCP — Best Practices

- [January 26 — Houston, TX](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction Contractors

- [January 13 — Seattle, WA](#)
- [January 20 — Los Angeles, CA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Supply and Service Contractors

- [December 22 — Nashville, TN](#)
- [December 28 — Mountainside, NJ](#)
- [December 29 — Nashville, TN](#)
- [January 12 — San Francisco, CA](#)
- [January 20 — Seattle, WA](#)

OFCCP — Equal Employment Practices for Federal Contractors

- [January 18 — Dallas, TX](#)

OFCCP — How to Compile an Affirmative Action Program and Support Data for a Compliance Review

- [December 28 — Richmond, VA](#)

OSHA — Public hearing on Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Protective Equipment

- [January 18 — Washington, DC](#)

Follow USDOL on 

- New on the Blog - Ensuring

Sullivan Granite Co., LLC, which owns and operates Brown's Meadow Quarry in Franklin, Maine, was ordered by a U.S. District Court judge to cease operations until all outstanding safety and health violations have been corrected and a federal inspector with the Mine Safety and Health Administration has verified operator compliance. Problems with the mine date back to a series of inspections MSHA conducted beginning last June. Inspectors later testified that the mine operator violated withdrawal orders issued by MSHA; denied them entry to the property; failed to abate violations; and refused to allow access to equipment at the quarry, provide documents and information on request, and assist with the inspection.

"When a mine operator interferes with authorized representatives in their attempts to inspect a mine, it constitutes a continuing threat to the health and safety of the miners," said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. "The court's ruling will enable MSHA inspectors to carry out their duties as set forth in the Mine Act."

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Learn More About the Safety Initiative](#)

New Mine Safety Initiative Urges Underground Miners to "Watch Out!"

"Watch Out!," a new safety initiative from the Mine Safety and Health Administration, focuses on hazards associated with operating shuttle cars and scoops in underground coal mines. Between January 2000 and September 2010, nearly 800 miners were injured and 16 killed in coal mine accidents involving these types of vehicles. The vehicles operate in close quarters and tight travel ways, where space is limited. When they are loaded, they can obstruct the driver's view, making movement dangerous and posing risks to other miners in the area. "Miners need to be more aware of the presence of these vehicles, and mine operators need to provide safety protections to prevent these injuries and deaths," said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Learn More About the Safety Initiative](#)

Focus on Exposure to Harmful Workplace Contaminants

Overexposure to harmful airborne contaminants in metal and nonmetal mines can lead to a variety of diseases and illnesses: including lead poisoning, lung cancer, asbestosis and bronchitis. The Mine Safety and Health Administration has announced enhanced emphasis on the implementation of exposure monitoring at the more than 12,000 hard rock mines, salt mines, sand and gravel pits and rock quarries throughout the nation. Mine operators have the primary responsibility for protecting the health of miners through exposure controls of hazardous materials. However, MSHA has undertaken its own efforts, starting with a stakeholder meeting at the agency's headquarters in Arlington, Va. "We want to ensure that miners are protected from overexposure to harmful contaminants and mine operators have the required safety and health programs in place to meet that objective," said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Compliance Information Procedure Instruction Letter](#)
- [Read the Monitoring Requirements Guidance](#)

OSHA Issues Notices of Unsafe Working Conditions at Airport

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued Notices of Unsafe or Unhealthful Working Conditions to the Federal Aviation Administration's Mansfield-Lahm Regional Airport in Mansfield, Ohio, for 13 violations; including one serious notice for failing to provide a diagram of

Access to Good and Safe Jobs

<http://bit.ly/gpkOEi> about 3 hours ago

- MSHA increases focus on implementation of exposure monitoring at metal and nonmetal mines [12/16/2010]
<http://bit.ly/gdl0nU> about 4 hours ago

designated emergency egress routes as required in the airport traffic control tower. The OSHA inspection was conducted June 15 as part of the Airport Air Traffic Control Tower Monitoring Program. OSHA's inspection also cited five repeat and seven other-than-serious violations. "The FAA failed to properly ensure this facility is in compliance with established safety procedures and to train workers for emergency actions," said OSHA Area Director Jule Hovi in Toledo.

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U.S. Department of Labor, Frances Perkins Building, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210
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