

Commemoration of the

75th ANNIVERSARY

of the

DESEGREGATION

of the

U.S. ARMED FORCES

**DOL Research Roundtable:
Current State of Black
Veteran Employment**

Session II: JULY 27, 2023

1:00-2:30pm



Chief Evaluation Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



AGENDA

Opening

Julian Purdy – Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy of Veterans’ Employment and Training Service in the U.S. Department of Labor

Yolanda F. Peacock (Moderator) – Research Analyst for the Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service

Presentations

Dr. Meredith Kleykamp

RAND Corporation and the University of Maryland

Dr. Rosemarie O’Connor

ICF International

Alden Pinkham, J.D.

Connecticut Veterans Legal Center

Ms. Wendy McClinton

Black Veterans for Social Justice

Questions & Answers

Yolanda F. Peacock

Closing Remarks

Yolanda F. Peacock

OPENING REMARKS

Julian Purdy is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy of Veterans’ Employment and Training Service in the U.S. Department of Labor. He has over 12 years of service working for and in the federal government. As a former Army NCO, he is truly dedicated to public service and to the betterment of our nation’s heroes. Prior to this appointment, he served as a Professional Staff Member on the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee; he was responsible for conceptualizing, drafting, and analyzing legislation related to military transition, employment, education, vocational training, home loans, and homelessness. During his tenure, he was one of the leading contributors for H.R. 7105, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, which increases protections for student veterans and expands benefits for homeless veterans.

PANELISTS

Yolanda F. Peacock (Moderator) is a Research Analyst for the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service. Ms. Peacock serves as the lead researcher and project manager for VETS' Black Veterans Research Project among other research and data analysis roles. Prior to joining VETS, Ms. Peacock served as an economist with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in various roles.

Meredith Kleykamp is a Senior Sociologist at the RAND Corporation and a Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland College Park. Her primary research centers on the consequences of military service for service members, veterans, and their families, as well as military personnel policies and challenges. Her recent research has examined societal perceptions and reception of returning veterans, military identity in the transition out of military service, hiring discrimination against veterans and military spouses, pre-enlistment diversity attitudes among youth with higher likelihoods of joining the military, and how to desegregate recruit training in the United States Marine Corps among other projects.

Rosemarie O'Conner is a Senior Director of Research Science at ICF Incorporated. She is a research methodologist and applied statistician with over 22 years of experience conducting research and evaluation in the social sciences, primarily in the field of education and training. Previously, Dr. O'Conner was an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Measurement and Research at the University of South Florida, where she taught graduate-level courses in measurement, research, and program evaluation. She also worked as an assessment specialist with the Department of Defense Education Activity. Dr. O'Conner currently leads the evaluation of the Transition Assistance Program for the U.S. Department of Labor and serves as the principal investigator for the ICF team on the Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research (CLEAR).

Alden Pinkham is a Staff Attorney and Policy Analyst at the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CVLC). CVLC provides free legal assistance to veterans who are in recovery from homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse to help them overcome legal barriers to housing, healthcare, and income. As a recovery-focused organization, CVLC primarily, but not exclusively, serves clients through a Medical-Legal Partnership model in which we partner with Veterans Administration Hospitals and other connected providers to provide holistic support for veterans alongside their clinicians.

Wendy McClinton is the President and CEO of Black Veterans for Social Justice, an organization that delivers services to assist military personnel in smoothly transitioning from active duty to civilian life across multiple areas. Ms. McClinton is the former appointed National Vice Commander for the National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS), and recently completed her service on the Board of Directors of the National Coalitions for Homeless Veterans (NCHV). She is currently the Chair of the NYC Mayor's Veterans Advisory Board and a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans. Ms. McClinton served in the United States Army for a decade and possesses lived homelessness experience.