

**DOL News Brief**

March 4, 2010

[Subscribe](#) | [Send Feedback](#) | [PDF Version](#)**Solis at AFL-CIO: Let's Work Together!**

"Good Jobs for Everyone is my top priority," Secretary Solis told members of the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in Orlando, Fla. "I wake up every morning worried about the



millions of Americans out of work--about the millions of Americans who have given up even looking for the jobs that aren't there. None of us expected this and we did not create this crisis--but each and everyone one of us is called to do more," she told the gathering of top union officials. During a roundtable discussion the night before her remarks, Solis met with area workers affected by the economic downturn. She also outlined top priorities of the department for officers of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, a national organization representing the interests of approximately 1.7 million Latino/a trade unionist.

- [Read the Accomplishments Fact Sheet](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)

**Miner Act Up-Close and Personal**

To get a sense of working underground in a coal mine, a congressional delegation traveled this week to Newtown Energy's Coalburg # 2 mine in Kanawha

County, W.Va. The guest list consisted of Representatives Donald Payne (N.J.), Lynn Woolsey (Calif.), and Senior Labor Policy Advisor on Health and Safety (HELP Committee) Richard Miller, along with several Department officials—Assistant Secretary for the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Brian Kennedy, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Deputy Assistant Secretary Gregory Wagner, M.D., and MSHA Administrator for Coal Mine Safety and Health Kevin Stricklin. This was no inaugural visit for Wagner – he's been in half a dozen coal mines over the years. "A lot has changed since I went

**What's Hot: Labor Department Plays Important Role in Middle Class Task Force**

Vice President Joe Biden hosted a forum Feb. 26 to unveil the year-end report of the White House Middle Class Task Force. The report included two new Labor Department rules to enhance retirement security and transparency for the millions of workers covered by 401(k), pension and other retirement arrangements. Deputy Secretary of Labor Seth Harris took part in the announcement stating, "a secure retirement is essential to workers and the nation's economy. These rules will strengthen America's private retirement system by ensuring workers get good, objective information. When that happens, workers make the kind of decisions that are good for their families, and the nation as a whole."

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Annual Report of Middle Class Task Force](#)
- [Read the Fact Sheet on Investment Advice](#)
- [Proposed Investment Advice Regulation](#)
- [Fact Sheet on Multi-employer Disclosure](#)
- [Final Multi-employer Disclosure Regulation](#)
- [Watch the Forum](#)

**Around DOL****DOL Welcomes Two New Leaders**

The Department is pleased to announce that two more members of the leadership team were recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate last month: Sara Manzano-Diaz, Director for the Women's Bureau and M. Patricia Smith, Solicitor. Both bring a distinguished record of achievement to their posts, and will play a critical role in delivering on the Department's goal of "Good Jobs for Everyone."

- [Meet Smith and Manzano-Diaz](#)

**OSHA is Listening**

Moving testimony came Thursday from family members who lost loved ones at a workplace fatality, as well as ideas for better communication about whistleblower protection during a day-long public meeting, "OSHA Listens," that was broadcast live on the internet. The Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels, Chief of Staff Debbie Berkowitz, Enforcement Director Richard Fairfax and Standards Director Dorothy Dougherty, spent the day listening to comments and suggestions from families, associations and unions on key issues facing the agency. Michaels delivered opening remarks letting the attendees and viewers know that OSHA has a commitment to engaging the public in the agency's decision-making. "We are in the process of preparing our strategic goals and plans for the agency and we want your feedback,"

underground more than a decade ago," he said, marveling over the mine's refuge chamber and sophisticated communication system, both installed as a result of stricter mine safety legislation passed more than three years ago. "It is clear that tracking and wireless communications mandated under the MINER Act are making meaningful improvements in miner safety, and they will increase the chances of a successful rescue if miners are trapped following an accident," added Congresswoman Woolsey.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

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## Solis Takes Her Message West

Last week, Secretary Solis traveled to California for several events and visits. Her first stop was a tour of American River College's Allied Health program, a DOL grantee, where she



participated in a roundtable with students, educators and employers. Later, Solis conveyed an important message on working cooperatively to advance our common well-being at the California Working Families Policy Summit 2010 in Sacramento. The event was hosted by the California Center for Research on Women and Families and co-sponsored by the California Legislative Women's Caucus and the California Commission on the Status of Women. On Monday, before returning to Washington, DC, Secretary Solis delivered remarks at the Swearing-In of John Pérez, Speaker of the House for the California Assembly in Sacramento.

- [Read the Secretary's Remarks](#)
- [View the ARC Slideshow](#)
- [View the Summit Slideshow](#)
- [View the Pérez Swearing-In Slideshow](#)

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## ETA Grantee Helps Haiti with Green Technology



Department of Labor Recovery Act YouthBuild grantee ARCH Training Center is building "solar suitcases" that will power hospitals in Haiti. These portable generators are being

manufactured by ARCH students at a facility in Washington, D.C. This project is part of the overall ARCH program that prepares young people for careers in skilled trades while allowing them to earn a high school diploma or GED. Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employment and Training Administration Jane Oates visited the students on Thursday as they worked on the generators. ARCH has successfully competed for

he said.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

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## News You Can Use

### Green Jobs – It's a Woman's World

DOL's Women's Bureau is sponsoring a series of webinars/teleconferences for workforce practitioners designed to help better connect women with green jobs training and green employment. The first teleconference in the series, "Why is Green Good for Women?" will take place on March 15 at noon ET. Opportunities for women in green occupations and key reasons for women to seek employment or career advancement in green jobs, including examples from the field, will be discussed. Participation is limited, so register early!

- [Registration Information](#)

### Apprenticeship Town Halls

The Department's Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) Office of Apprenticeship will host a series of town hall meetings and a webinar listening session on plans to update Apprenticeship's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) regulations (29 CFR part 30). The town hall meetings, to be held in Washington, DC, San Francisco, and Chicago throughout the month of March, will provide a forum for Registered Apprenticeship stakeholders and anyone else wishing to provide comments regarding possible revisions to the regulations. In the coming days, ETA will publish a Federal Register Notice to formally announce these meetings and to provide details for submitting suggestions and feedback.

- [EEO Regs Town Hall Meetings](#)

### Grant Applications 101

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has launched an online suite of resources for grant applicants. The new site introduces potential grantees to ETA grants and provide examples to guide applicants through the process of applying. Included on the site are an Annotated Sample Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA); an interactive, self-paced tutorial on the ETA grant-making process; and a compilation of resources to help prospective applicants develop competitive grant applications.

- [Check Out the New Tools](#)

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## DOL Working For You

### Sky's the Limit for Job Corps Transportation Graduate

The Minneapolis-St. Paul airport is a busy place, and Job Corps graduate Jay Booker is at the center of it all. Booker works there for a regional ground and customer service company, a job which suits his Job Corps training.



Booker graduated from the Detroit (Mich.) Job Corps center with a certificate in business office technology. He then enrolled in and graduated from the Hubert H. Humphrey (Minn.) Job Corps' transportation program, run by the Transportation Communications International Union/International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. He hasn't ruled out going to college one day to study Psychology.

"Job Corps bettered me as a person and made it more possible for me to enter the workforce," Booker said of his time in the program.

Recovery Act funding through both the YouthBuild and Green Capacity Building grants.

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Learn More About ARCH](#)

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## Spreading the Word About H-2A

DOL's Employment and Training Administration and Wage and Hour Division have conducted a series of public briefings in San Diego, Calif., Dallas, Texas and Raleigh, N.C., on the upcoming H-2A rule. This final ruling affects the employment of temporary agricultural workers and will be effective on March 15.

- [See the Final Rule](#)

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## Talking Solutions at JAG

On Thursday, Secretary Solis delivered remarks at the Jobs for America's Graduates' National Thought Leader Event, which focused on solutions for high-risk minorities. Jobs for



America's Graduates, or JAG, is a school-to-career program implemented in 700 high schools, alternative schools, community colleges and middle schools across the country and United Kingdom. JAG's mission is to keep young people in school through graduation and provide work-based learning experiences that will lead to career advancement opportunities or enrollment in a post secondary institution that leads to a career.

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

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## Celebrating Women's History

Women's History Month is an opportunity for us to recognize the contributions women have made to our Nation, and to honor those who blazed trails for women's empowerment and equality. This year's theme, "Writing Women Back into History," celebrates the countless women who have steered the course of our history and their stories of steadfast determination. From reaching for the ballot box to breaking barriers on athletic fields and battlefields, American women have stood resolute in the face of adversity and overcome obstacles to realize their full measure of success. As we honor the women who have shaped our Nation, we must remember that we are tasked with writing the next chapter of women's history.

- [Read the President's Proclamation](#)

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## Upcoming Deadlines & Events

### ETA — Camino Real Venture Competition

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## DOL in Action

### Back Wages for Husky Energy Corporation Workers

More than \$969,000 in back wages have been paid to 173 workers of a petroleum refinery located in Lima, Ohio, as a result of an investigation conducted by the Department's Wage and Hour Division. The investigation, which covered a two-year period, determined that Husky Energy Corporation was in violation of the overtime pay provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. "Employers must give their workers the fair and proper compensation to which they are entitled. That is the law," said Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Building Nursing Education Capacity

Through two National Nursing Summits, the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) Business Relations Group challenged State Team Leaders to reach beyond professional and academic networks to engage representatives of the public workforce system. Following guidance from the Center to Champion Nursing in America (CCNA/AARP), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the US Department of Health and Human Services – Health Resources Services Administration (HHS-HRSA), State Teams have aligned strategic resources and fostered buy-in from new stakeholders to support the critical investments in nursing faculty needed to increase the number of nurses being trained nationwide.

- [Learn More](#)

### ODEP Works With Veterans

On Monday, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) Kathy Martinez spoke to paralyzed American veterans about the Department's support for wounded veterans and ODEP programs and policies. "It is my strong belief that our nation's service members deserve a return to civilian life that respects their sacrifices and honors their right to return to productive lives. We at the Department of Labor have to fulfill our end of that bargain," said Martinez. Just last week, DOL, along with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, re-launched an improved National Resource Directory Web site for America's wounded warriors, their caregivers, other members of the veterans community and employers. The directory provides access to thousands of services and resources at the national, state and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration for veterans.

- [Visit the National Resource Directory Site](#)

### National Emergency Grant to Maine

DOL announced a \$2,497,927 National Emergency Grant supplemental award to Maine to continue providing services to hundreds of federal civilian and secondarily-impacted workers affected by a 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) action. "This grant will ensure Mainers impacted by base realignment and closures continue to have access to important services. That includes job placement assistance, skills training and other re-employment aid, which will help them successfully transition to careers in promising industries," said Secretary Solis. The grant will fund strategies to minimize the time BRAC-impacted workers are unemployed and assist them in upgrading their skills.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### e-Smart Technologies Inc. to Pay Whistleblower \$600,000 in Damages

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has ordered e-Smart Technologies Inc. to pay back wages with interest, and approximately \$600,000 in compensatory damages to a worker who was discharged after

[March 5-6, 2010 — El Paso, TX](#)

**MSHA — Dedication of Memorial to Fallen Miners**

- [March 9, 2010 — Ovenfork, KY](#)

**MSHA — "End Black Lung — Act Now" Meeting**

- [March 9, 2010 — Whitesburg, KY](#)

**OFCCP — Compliance Assistance for Construction Contractors**

- [March 5, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)
- [March 9, 2010 — Philadelphia, PA](#)

**OFCCP — Compliance Assistance for Supply and Service Contractors**

- [March 9, 2010 — Livingston, NJ](#)
- [March 12, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

**OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminars**

- [March 9, 2010 — Hartford, CT](#)

**OFCCP — AAP Development & Preparing for a Desk Audit**

- [March 10, 2010 — Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [March 11, 2010 — Baltimore, MD](#)

**OSHA — Record keeping MSD Proposal Public Hearing**

- [March 9, 2010 — Washington, DC](#)

**WB — Second Wind Talk Show**

- [March 6, 2010 — Kansas City, MO](#)

**WB — Sustain Your Future: San Diego Expanding Your Horizons Conference**

- [March 6, 2010 — San Diego, CA](#)

**WB — The Momentum 2010: Ohio Women's Summit**

- [March 8, 2010 — Columbus, OH](#)

**WB — "Women in Green Jobs" Symposium**

- [March 9, 2010 — St. Charles, IL](#)

**WB — "Women in Green Jobs" Solar Training Information Session**

- [March 6, 2010 — Austin, TX](#)

**WB — Women's Role in the Green Economy**

- [March 5, 2010 — Boston, MA](#)

raising concerns about misinformation contained in a draft public filing. The company was also ordered to reinstate the whistleblower to his former position. "It is vital that employees be able to raise fraud concerns to their employers without fear of retaliation," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Dr. David Michaels. "This order reaffirms both the right of employees to raise concerns regarding violations of Securities and Exchange Commission rules and the Labor Department's commitment to protecting that right."

- [Read the News Release](#)

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## Spotlight on States: New York

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) sponsored town hall meetings in Ronkonkoma, N.Y. this week to advise the public on a new class of employees added to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act's Special Exposure Cohort. These town halls are part of a larger public outreach campaign that seeks out employees who became ill as a result of working in the nuclear weapons industry. In the last year, OWCP has used town halls and traveling resource centers to help hundreds of affected workers and their families. The next town hall meetings are scheduled for March 17 and 18 in Kennewick, Washington.

- [Read More about EEOICPA](#)
- [Read the News Release](#)

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## Green Scene: Gerald Ford Job Corps

The Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center, located in Grand Rapids, Mich., recently received \$13.5 million in Recovery Act funds for several campus renovation projects. The new construction is expected to involve more than 15 local small businesses and have an immediate \$13 million economic impact for Grand Rapids and the state of Michigan. The project will upgrade the center's main building, auditorium and gymnasium by incorporating sustainable and renewable energy features, such as the latest green roofing technology, designs to efficiently use day lighting, water conservation devices and high-efficiency Energy Star equipment. Once completed, the main building is intended to be an Energy Star-rated building.



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## Opportunities are Open: OIG

The Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) serves the public by conducting audits, investigations, and evaluations that result in improvements in the effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of Departmental programs and operations. OIG works to detect and prevent fraud and abuse in DOL programs throughout the Nation's workplaces as well as provide advice to the Secretary and Congress on attaining the highest possible program performance. Explore the positions below or [view all](#) the exciting and rewarding opportunities at DOL.

1. Positions in Washington DC Metro Area  
[Supervisory IT Specialist — GS-2210-14/14](#)  
DE-10-OIG-OA-05  
Close: 03/19/2010
2. Positions in Washington DC Metro Area  
[Supervisory Auditor — GS-0511-14/14](#)

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Follow USDOL on 

- US Secretary of Labor @ [HildaSolisDOL](#) on February Employment Numbers <http://s.dol.gov/2S> [about 4 hours ago](#)
- That's a wrap for the #OSHA Listens event, thx to all who followed along. Share your ideas for a better #OSHA & @ [USDOL](#) <http://s.dol.gov/2K> [about 21 hours ago](#)

- DE-10-OIG-OA-06  
Close: 03/19/2010
3. Positions in Washington DC Metro Area  
[Supervisory Program Analyst — GS-0343-14/14](#)  
DE-10-OIG-OA-07  
Close: 03/19/2010

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