



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Good jobs for everyone.

DOL News Brief

March 11, 2010

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International Women's Day

In celebration of International Women's Day, Secretary Solis addressed nearly 300 attendees at an event hosted by the UN Information Center Washington, the UN Foundation and the **Women's Foreign Policy Group**. "As a product of the women's movement, the social justice movement and the civil rights movement, I have seen how far we have come in advancing the role of women in our country and around the globe," said Solis. "I also see how much further we have yet to go in supporting women and girls to ensure equality and opportunity in our workplaces, our schools and in our communities as a whole." The event was one of many held around the world that called for greater support to women, particularly in developing countries.

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

Innovative Workforce Solutions



On Wednesday, Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Administration Jane Oates traveled to Philadelphia to meet with a myriad of local organizations, including Jobs For the

Future, the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund, the Job Opportunity Investment Network, and the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Literacy. She toured a union training facility which prepares both members and non-members for careers in healthcare. Oates moved on to the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania where she addressed more than 100 business leaders and joined in a panel on local job creation efforts. The event coincided with Philadelphia's Workforce Solutions Week, which brings together workers, employers, public officials, and educators to examine innovative approaches to national workforce development.

- [Learn about Workforce Solutions Week](#)
- [Learn about Training & Upgrading Fund](#)

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

EBSA — Health Benefits Laws Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [March 16, 2010 — Las Vegas, NV](#)

ETA — Reporting Requirements for Grantees Webinar

- [March 12, 2010 — Online Event](#)

MSHA — Communications & Tracking Workshop

- [March 17, 2010 — Triadelphia, WV](#)

WB Hosts Delegation in Celebration of International Women's Day



Last week, the Department's Women's Bureau Director Sara Manzano-Diaz hosted an international delegation of women attorneys, judges, and academics to discuss women and justice issues. The distinguished group came from across the globe — Algeria, Cape Verde, Germany, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, the People's Republic of China, Rwanda, and Turkey — to share and learn about the status of women's lives. Manzano-Diaz led a spirited exchange on the Women's Bureau's vision to empower all working women to achieve economic security, with the visitors sharing stories about conditions for women in their countries. Topics varied, including violence against women, age and gender discrimination, microcredit, and maternity and family leave; yet the commonality of issues was clear to all, and the women discussed possible solutions.

Looking Back and Moving Forward



On Wednesday, Secretary Solis hosted her first town hall meeting at the Department. Before a standing room only crowd of employees and departmental officials, she outlined DOL's accomplishments, noting that even her boss, President Obama, gives a year-end review. She solicited "good ideas" to ensure that the Department is doing everything it can to assist working families during these challenging times. The Secretary also took a moment to highlight the work of several individuals who have gone above the call of duty — including braving the recent blizzard!

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Watch the Video](#)

DOL Working For You

Dollars and Cents Add Up for Woman's Bureau Wi\$eup Entrepreneur

Esther Fernandez of Massachusetts has not only gained control over her finances, but also started a real estate investment company. She credits her success to the knowledge and savvy gained from the Wi\$eUp financial education program funded by the Women's Bureau.



Fernandez, a divorced mother of two, took courses in financial planning, investing, and entrepreneurship which she said gave her renewed confidence in her abilities and helped her set and reach goals of financial independence and starting a business. She also offers advice to help distressed homeowners who face financial problems with their lenders.

"Before I was fearful about financial challenges I faced," Fernandez said, "but the Wi\$eup program motivated me, gave me confidence, and allows me to help others."

Recovery Highlights: Emergency Grants