

BENEFITING YOU..

Worker Misclassification: “Widespread and Harmful”

Highlighting a problem present in nearly every industry, Deputy Secretary of Labor Seth Harris recently testified before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions’ hearing on worker misclassification. The issue has become an increasingly common problem resulting in workers being denied benefits; an unfair advantage for employers who intentionally misclassify workers as independent contractors; and state and federal governments losing tax revenue. In his testimony, Harris outlined the scope of the problem, as well as DOL’s efforts to tackle the issue and it’s support of Congressional action to make misclassification illegal. “We believe that addressing this issue is a win-win for those who want to ensure a level playing field in the marketplace, and protect workers as Congress intended under the law,” Harris said.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding worker classifications or any other Department of Labor compliance issue, please call BGC. We are here to help!

\$125 Million to Support Training Services in Community Colleges

“The \$125 million awarded today will create opportunities for working Americans to train for high-demand occupations with the help of our nationwide community college system,” said Secretary Solis as she announced DOL’s Community-Based Job Training Grants. “Our goal is to help workers across the country prepare for and secure good jobs, and with support from these colleges and other critical stakeholders, we’ll ensure we reach a broad base of individuals in need.” The grants, awarded to 41 community colleges and organizations in 26 states, will help improve the ability of community colleges to train and prepare workers for employment in high growth and other emerging industries.

\$75 Million to Help Workers Learn While They Earn

During a visit to Denver last month for the National Association of Latino Elected Officials’ annual convention, Secretary Solis announced \$75 million in Recovery Act funds for On-the-Job-Training. The District of Columbia, 41 states and three federally recognized Native American tribes will benefit from the National Emergency Grants. “This on-the-job training investment presents a tremendous opportunity for American workers and the employers who invest their time and commitment to training and hiring them,” said Solis. On-the-Job Training Grants offer a method to jump start re-employment for dislocated workers experiencing prolonged unemployment by enabling employers to create training and job opportunities for these individuals.

“Grandfather” Rule for Health Plans

New regulations jointly announced by Secretary Solis and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on Monday will ensure that Americans who like their current health coverage will be able to keep it. The regulation clarifies how plans and health insurance issuers can remain exempt from certain requirements of the Affordable Care Act under the law’s “grandfather” provision.

YOU could be a STAR!

Contestants are submitting films for a chance to win \$1,000 in the department’s Career Video Challenge. DOL is inviting members of the public to produce and submit short (1 to 3 minute) videos focusing on the daily activities, necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities of one of 15 high-growth occupations. The

challenge runs through August 20, but don’t delay the start of your production. The department is expecting high-quality career videos, and filmmakers will need time to shoot, edit and polish each entry. Visit the www.dol.gov website for more details!



In the Spotlight



West Point Beckons

Eighteen-year-old David "Nathan" Chestnut is a special young man who says he "likes to overcome challenges" and succeed.

Chestnut completed his high school education with a higher than 4.0 GPA while concurrently graduating from the Gadsden, Alabama, Job Corps' culinary arts program, where he made a difficult battered fried shrimp recipe his signature dish.

Now his outstanding achievements have landed him an appointment to the prestigious United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, where only 1,300 out of over 10,000 applicants are accepted yearly. But as Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) told the Academy, "I believe Nathan possesses the maturity and determination necessary to succeed in his goal of becoming an officer in the United States Army."

Chestnut said Job Corps "Made me buckle down and achieve success."



Overcoming Leukemia, Becoming a Role Model

Twenty-one year old Victor Perez has never given up, not when he was born into poverty in Puerto Rico and not when he was diagnosed with leukemia while attending the Shriver Job Corps in Massachusetts.

Instead, after months of medication and chemotherapy treatment forced him to take a one year's leave of absence from Shriver's nursing program, Perez rejoined it. His determination led to being selected as one of 12 National Youth Ambassadors to Job Corps, where he travels the country lecturing young people on the importance of hard work and education. Perez is continuing his studies in the clinical medical assistant program at New York's South Bronx Job Corps, and hopes to attend college.

"Job Corps taught me how to better myself and made me more responsible," Perez said.

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