


Women's Bureau


WB Updates September 2019 | Issue IV

U.S. Department of Labor Awards Nearly \$1.5 Million to Increase Apprenticeship Participation, Expand Job Opportunities for American Women

wanto banner

The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded nearly \$1.5 million in Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grants to help recruit, train, and retain more women in quality apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. The funding to Chicago Women in Trades, Hampton Roads Workforce Council, and Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership, Inc. will help women pursue careers in manufacturing, infrastructure, cybersecurity, health care, and other industries. For more, see the [news release](#) and our [WANTO page](#).


Breaking Down Barriers for Women in Workforce (Op-ed by Women's Bureau Acting Director Erica C. Wright, Published in Lancaster Online)

erica wright

On Labor Day, we celebrated what the American dream is truly about — dignity of work and the liberty to pursue happiness. We also celebrated the contributions that America's workforce has made toward the growth and prosperity of our nation... To maintain this path of success, we must continue growing and expanding opportunities for women. One solution is to reduce occupational licensing barriers — particularly for military spouses, 92% of whom are women.


[Read the full op-ed.](#)

September 10, 2019 – Webinar: Improving Women's Financial Security

 professionals in meeting

Women face challenges to their financial security due to factors such as taking time out of the workforce to care for family and living longer in retirement. Military spouses face additional challenges, such as frequent moves (including overseas locations) that can make finding employment and building a career difficult. On September 10 from 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time, the Department's Employee Benefits Security Administration will host a webcast highlighting steps women can take to improve their financial security, featuring presenters from the Department's Women's Bureau and Veterans' Employment and Training Service, and the Social Security Administration. [Click here](#) to learn more and register.


Acting Director Wright speaks to the National Association of Commissions for Women

 erica wright speaking at nacw

On July 24, Women's Bureau Acting Director Erica C. Wright delivered the keynote address at the Annual Meeting and Leadership Summit of the National Association of Commissions for Women. Wright highlighted the close relationship between the Commissions for Women and

the Women's Bureau throughout its 99-year history and emphasized the importance of collaboration on current priority issues such as occupational licensing reform.

Women's Bureau Regional Administrator Jacqueline Cooke Retires

jaqueline cooke with wb staff

Jacqueline Cooke, Regional Administrator for Region I, retired after 24 years of service on July 6. During her tenure she developed programs and demonstration projects in partnership with educational institutions, employers, labor and community-based organizations on issues of concern to working women including apprenticeship, nontraditional careers, and child care. In 2017, Jacqueline was awarded the Philip Arnow Award for her exceptional long standing commitment to the Department of Labor and its mission to serve and impact American workers.

Celebrating the 99th Anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment

suffragists

August 26, Women's Equality Day, marked the 99th Anniversary of the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. As we celebrate the centennial anniversaries of both the Women's Bureau and the Nineteenth Amendment next year, be sure to check out the programs and events organized by the [2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative](#). Also note the exhibits currently on display at the [National Archives Museum](#) and the [Library of Congress](#).

Women's Bureau Announces Launch of Newly Redesigned Website

 woman in hard hat

The Women's Bureau has launched a newly redesigned website. Committed to being the most reliable source of data and information on women in the workforce, we encourage you to visit and explore our new homepage, discover the full spectrum of data and statistics, as well as resources for your use, including our brand new Meetings in a Box on Women's Bureau, apprenticeships, child care, and military spouses. We will continue to expand our resources and deliver the most updated and relevant information. To receive our newsletter, sign up here.

U.S. Department of Labor Proposes a Rule Clarifying Civil Rights Protections for Religious Organizations

 ofccp banner

The Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs recently announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to clarify civil rights protections for religious organizations. Comments on the proposed rule can be submitted by September 16, 2019.



Women's Bureau

An agency within the U.S.
Department of Labor

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