Dear Friends of the Women’s Bureau,

This year has brought new challenges to the workplace. I am proud to say that despite challenges posed by shifting to remote work, the Women’s Bureau had a very productive year in 2020.

The Women’s Bureau expanded efforts to increase access to apprenticeships and nontraditional occupations and celebrate trailblazing women whose work in these occupations created the foundation of success for future generations to build their careers.

The Bureau inducted a group of women collectively known as “The Rosies.” These are the millions of women who joined the workforce as part of our national effort to expand wartime production during World War II.

This ceremony served as a fitting precursor to President Trump signing the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019 into law on Dec. 3, 2020, which honored The Rosies by collectively awarding them a Congressional Gold Medal.

We also focused on supporting child care access for working families, further researching the impact of paid family leave on workers and expanding employment assistance to military spouses.

However, I want to take this opportunity to highlight other important departmental achievements that I hope will bring cheer this holiday season.

The Department announced a joint final rule that ensures the equal treatment of faith-based organizations in federally funded social service programs.

Additionally, the Department announced a final rule that protects tipped employees by prohibiting employers from keeping tips received by their employees, regardless of whether the employer takes credit for tips earned by workers toward its minimum wage obligation.

I am proud of the U.S. Department of Labor’s work in 2020! For more information on the Department of Labor and the Women’s Bureau’s activities during 2021, follow us on Twitter at @USDOL and @WB_DOL.

Happy New Year!

Laurie Todd-Smith, Ph.D.
Director
Women’s Bureau
U.S. Department of Labor
Women's Bureau Participates in Virtual Technical Dialogue between Switzerland and the United States

On Dec. 17, 2020, the Women's Bureau joined the U.S. Department of Commerce and other U.S. Department of Labor agencies in a virtual technical dialogue with the Swiss Embassy and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation. Subject matter experts from the Women's Bureau shared information about the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grant program and the Women's Bureau's recently released Case-Based Resource Guide.

Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act Signed Into Law

On Dec. 3, 2020, the "Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019" was signed into law, collectively awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to all women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II.

In September, the Women's Bureau and the U.S. Department of Labor had the honor of inducting "The Rosies" into the Labor Hall of Honor. These women answered the call to service and made a distinctive impact on both the labor force and the war effort. Their contributions created lasting effects for American women in the workforce that we continue to celebrate today.

View the Hall of Honor induction ceremony.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Outlines New Plans to Reduce U.S. Pregnancy-Related Deaths

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently announced a partnership with the March of Dimes and a new action plan to reduce maternal deaths and disparities that put women at risk before, during and after pregnancy.

The partnership with the March of Dimes will specifically address and improve maternal health outcomes for African American women through the implementation of evidence-based best practices in hospital settings.

Read the press release.
Read the action plan.
BLS Releases "Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2019"


Read the report.

Tell Us Your Story

The Women's Bureau's "Our Purpose. Your Work." initiative presents women of all ages with the opportunity to share your work stories and discuss how the Women's Bureau has helped advance your purpose. Throughout our centennial year, we have collected and shared stories to learn how the Women's Bureau's resources and initiatives have made a difference in your life, at work and at home.

- Please share your story and tell us how the Women's Bureau's work has influenced your life, your work, or your family.

Follow the Women's Bureau on Twitter: @WB_DOL

The Women's Bureau has been championing the interests of working women and serving as a convener of conversations for 100 years.