Supporting Women Truck Drivers

90-Day Trucking Action Plan - On April 4, Women’s Bureau (WB) Director Wendy Chun-Hoon, along with Program Analyst Katrin Schulz, attended a White House event highlighting the administration’s 90 Day Trucking Action Plan, which is part of ongoing work to address supply chain priorities. The Department of Labor’s role in these efforts is to ensure trucking jobs are good jobs and safe jobs. To that end, together with the Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS), the Wage and Hour Division (WHD), the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Office of the Secretary (OSEC), the WB has been building DOL’s Driving Good Jobs Initiative, our centerpiece within the 90 Day Trucking Action Plan.

- Read the White House Fact Sheet

Day of Action - On April 28, the WB in partnership with women truck drivers, sexual assault survivors, employers, advocacy groups, Members of Congress, the White House, the Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission organized a Day of Action to Raise Awareness and Advocate for the Prevention of Sexual Assault & Sexual Harassment in Trucking. The Day of Action secured commitments from industry employers and associations to combat sexual assault and violence in the industry. The WB culminated the Day of Action with a roundtable discussion about strategies to ensure drivers have safe and inclusive work environments, to shift cultural norms and to ensure trauma-informed, survivor-centered responses to reports of violence and harassment that occur both in and outside of the truck.

- Find more information about promoting safety in trucking
- Check out this ride along video filmed with long haul truck driver Brita Nowak and Wendy Chun Hoon, Nikkilia Lu and Katrin Schulz of the WB
• Read the blog: “Day of Action to Promote Safety and Prevent Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in the Trucking Industry”
• Read the blog: “Driving Change: Ensuring a Safe Work Environment in the Trucking Industry”
• Read the press release

Other Recent Events

Flipping the Script: Racial and Gender Equity in a Recovering Economy

The WB closed out Women's History Month with a panel of experts who explored whether pandemic-related outcomes are likely to perpetuate longstanding patterns of gender or racial inequality or whether this is a “flip the script” moment with the potential for the recovery to usher in an era of greater equity and equality for Black women workers and indeed, all women workers.

• Watch the recording

Equity in Focus: Investing in Childcare Careers

The WB, in partnership with Cornell's Worker Institute, hosted a second conversation in the Equity in Focus webinar series. Equity in Focus: Investing in Childcare Careers explored the challenges of the childcare industry and the impact of COVID-19 on this industry and its workers. The webinar also highlighted local examples across the US that are improving access to childcare while also raising wages for childcare workers.

• Watch the recording

HBCU Educational Forum: Federal Opportunities and Resources

On April 28, the WB in collaboration with the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)....

The Atlantic’s “The Progress Report: Advancing Equity in America”

WB Director Wendy Chun-Hoon participated in The Atlantic’s “The Progress Report: Advancing Equity in America” virtual event, during which she discussed the future of women in the workforce.

She noted the importance of making sure that “we're able to choose our careers based on our interests and not based on our gender, and really addressing this issue about occupational segregation, supporting women to get into the jobs that are going to be created to rebuild the infrastructure of our country.”

“Entering into a workplace where you are by far the minority is going to take a lot of attention to make sure that that workplace is really free from harassment and discrimination and bullying.”

• Watch the recording

The Economy She Deserves: Building an Agenda for a Women-Centered Recovery

WB Director Wendy Chun-Hoon participated in “The Economy She Deserves: Building an Agenda for a Women-Centered Recovery,” discussing the impacts of the pandemic on women workers and how to build an economy that works for women. She talked about combating occupational segregation through increased access to apprenticeships and training, and increasing access to paid family medical leave.

• Watch the recording

Solutions for the Justice Involved Women Program

In honor of Second Chance Month, the WB has been hosting a webinar series for DOL employees and members of the public.

• Part 1 on April 20th, featured justice involved women, experts in the area of female incarceration and advocates speaking about the challenges and barriers justice involved women face.
• Part 2 on April 27th, was solution oriented. DOL agencies and grantees shared the resources and supports they are providing to help justice involved women advance in the workplace and external organizations shared their thoughts on the components necessary to run a successful reentry program.
• Part 3 on May 4th will further explore how adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and subsequent trauma substantially increases the likelihood of women to experience incarceration or
hosted a webinar for HBCU students, faculty members and parents to provide information on resources from federal agencies and opportunities for employment within the government. Representatives of the WB, the Wage and Hour Division, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other agencies were in attendance. In addition to employment opportunities, information about apprenticeships, veterans services, and benefits programs were discussed.

- Learn more about what the WB is doing to help women enter non-traditional occupations

**Hear Our Voices**

On April 25, WB Director Wendy Chun-Hoon spoke on the panel, Hear Our Voices, hosted by the Center for Asian Pacific Women, Organization for Chinese Americans, and Center for Pan Asian Community Services. The 3-part series is focused on disrupting xenophobia and promoting visibility of the diverse lived experiences among the AANHPI community, in reflection of the anniversary of the Atlanta spa shootings and in lead up to AANHPI heritage month in May.

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**DOL Equity Action Plan**

DOL released its Equity Action Plan summarizing the early actions we have taken to support marginalized, vulnerable and underserved communities, and the steps we’re continuing to take to advance equity across the department. Themes in the plan include protecting workers’ wage and hour rights, improving timely access to unemployment insurance benefits, improving language access in DOL programs and services, reducing barriers to workforce training for underserved communities, and developing government apprenticeships.

- Read the Equity Action Plan
- Read the blog: “How We’re Advancing Equity for Underserved Workers”
- Read the blog: “By the Numbers: How We’re Advancing Equity at the US Department of Labor”

**Recognizing Black Maternal Health Week**
During Black Maternal Health Week, the White House released a fact sheet describing actions in response to Vice President Harris's call to action on maternal health. Vice President Harris convened a meeting with Cabinet Secretaries and agency leaders to discuss the Administration's whole-of-government approach to addressing maternal mortality and morbidity. The Vice President convened leaders across the federal government – including agencies that may not have historically taken a leading role addressing the maternal health crisis.

- Read the White House Fact Sheet

Join our Team!

The WB is hiring a Communications Specialist. The announcement closes on May 9.

- Apply here

A Look Ahead
We Want to Hear from You!

"Occupational segregation" is the gendered division of men and women into different types of jobs. It leads to women being overrepresented in certain jobs, which are generally valued and compensated less than male-dominated jobs. We've heard from many working women about their experiences with gendered job expectations, the challenges they face at work, the supports that help them thrive, and the policy changes that would help them succeed.

Tell us your story

Follow the Women's Bureau on Twitter: @WB_DOL
The Women’s Bureau has championed the rights of working women and served as a convener of conversations critical to an equitable economy for women for more than 100 years.

Follow us at @WB_DOL to view our #ThrowbackThursday series highlighting pioneering women, and to learn more about the latest research, initiatives, policies, and updates related to working women and their families.