

From: United States Department of Labor
Sent: 3/5/2015 11:19:57 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: The DOL Newsletter - March 5, 2015: Injury and Inequality; A Bridge Into History; Labor Rights in Honduras

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March 5, 2015

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- [Ten Good Jobs That Don't Need a Degree](#)

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Having a college degree is more important than ever when it comes to being competitive in today's job market. But there are occupations that don't require a degree — and pay good wages.

- [What You Need to Know About Women and Work](#)

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[history-month/>](#): As Black History Month ends and Women's History Month begins, those of us at the department are reflecting on the important contributions that black women have made to our nation's workforce.

- [Celebrating Our Heritage and New Opportunities](#)

[<http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzA1LjQyNDc0MjUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMwNS40MjQ3NDI1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTg0MDYzJmVtYWlsaWQ9bmlra2loYWxleUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWhhbGV5QGdvd5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&109&&&http://blog.dol.gov/2015/02/27/celebrating-our-heritage-and-new-opportunities/>](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzA1LjQyNDc0MjUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMwNS40MjQ3NDI1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTg0MDYzJmVtYWlsaWQ9bmlra2loYWxleUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWhhbGV5QGdvd5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&109&&&http://blog.dol.gov/2015/02/27/celebrating-our-heritage-and-new-opportunities/>): There aren't a lot of places in the world where a group of people of similar heritage can come together to celebrate that heritage, while also celebrating the nation that they now call home. But in America, we consider diversity to be our greatest strength, writes Secretary Perez.

Paid Leave, 'A Good Idea'

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Running the issue gamut from civil rights to apprenticeship to retirement security, Secretary Perez addressed a receptive crowd of several hundred on March 2 at Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's 26th annual "Delta Days in the Nation's Capital" gathering. Much of Perez's remarks focused on family economics and specifically paid leave, which he called "not a liberal idea or a conservative idea — just a good idea." Noting that our failure to enact paid leave is out of step with the times, he added: "We live in a 'Modern Family' world, but we've got 'Leave it to Beaver' rules." Delta Sigma Theta is a predominantly African-American public service sorority of more than 200,000 members.

- [Learn About Paid Leave](#) <http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?>

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Remembering A. Philip Randolph

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Community leaders and labor activists from Delaware to New England gathered in Boston Feb. 27 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the senior constituency group of the AFL-CIO. Women's Bureau Director Latifa Lyles joined Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Mass. AFL-CIO President Steve Tolman, and APRI President Clayola Brown at the special commemoration of the statue of A. Philip Randolph, the organizer and first president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Lyles addressed the group that evening at the "Keeper of the Flame Award" dinner, remarking: "This historic milestone is an opportunity to note the many African American women trailblazers in both the civil rights and labor rights movement who are often missing from documents of history and acclaim."

Help for the Underpaid, Overworked

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Wage and Hour Division investigations in fiscal year 2014 determined that more than 270,000 workers in the U.S. were underpaid and due more than \$240 million in back wages. On a recent visit to North Carolina, Administrator David Weil met some of those workers, including Irma and Jose, whose earnings at a grocery store averaged about \$4 an hour while putting in 12-hour days, six days a week. Weil also spoke with Miriam, another grocery store worker who — after complaining to her employer that she wasn't being paid properly — was told she should be grateful to have a job. "Stories like Miriam's make it clear that while we're making progress in our enforcement efforts, our work must continue," said

Weil. “Too many workers still aren’t properly paid for their hard work. When working people like Irma, Jose and Miriam are deprived of their wages, it not only hurts them and their families but also their coworkers and their communities. It takes courage to come forward to say being deprived of your wages and your rights is not fair. That’s why we focus our efforts particularly on workers who may be hesitant to come forward and complain no matter how bad their working conditions may be.”

- [Read Blog on Investigation Results <http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzA1LjQyNDc0MjUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMwNS40MjQ3NDI1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTg0MDYzJmVtYWlsaWQ9bmlra2loYWxleUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWhhbGV5QGdvd5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&114&&&https://blog.dol.gov/2015/02/26/measuring-real-impacts-for-workers/>](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzA1LjQyNDc0MjUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMwNS40MjQ3NDI1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTg0MDYzJmVtYWlsaWQ9bmlra2loYWxleUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWhhbGV5QGdvd5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&114&&&https://blog.dol.gov/2015/02/26/measuring-real-impacts-for-workers/)
- [See Resources for Workers <http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzA1LjQyNDc0MjUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMwNS40MjQ3NDI1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTg0MDYzJmVtYWlsaWQ9bmlra2loYWxleUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWhhbGV5QGdvd5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&115&&&http://www.dol.gov/WHD/workers.htm#workersrights>](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzA1LjQyNDc0MjUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMwNS40MjQ3NDI1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTg0MDYzJmVtYWlsaWQ9bmlra2loYWxleUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWhhbGV5QGdvd5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&115&&&http://www.dol.gov/WHD/workers.htm#workersrights>)

Garment Industry Compliance

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Sewing compliance in the garment industry — piece by piece — is the primary goal of the Los Angeles Garment Taskforce. Staff from the Wage and Hour Division, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office and other federal and state agencies met on March 2 at Los Angeles' City Hall to discuss the rights of garment workers and how to better collaborate to increase garment industry compliance. "This is a great opportunity to work together using creativity, innovation and flexibility" said Juan Coria, the division's deputy regional administrator.

Contractors Play Ball for Safety

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A new partnership has been formed between the Associated General Contractors of Georgia, American Builders 2017, the Georgia Tech Research Institute's Occupational Safety and Health Program and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to ensure the highest level of employee safety and health protections are in place during construction of the new SunTrust Park, Atlanta Braves Stadium, in Atlanta. The parties signed the agreement on March 4 — at the site of the stadium's future home, and pledged that more than 6,000 workers will receive safety and health training and work in the safest environment possible. "It is through partnerships like this that we will send workers home safe each night," said Teresa Harrison, OSHA's deputy regional administrator for the Southeast.

- [Learn About the Strategic Partnership Program](#)

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'Working off the Clock' in Texas

Many housekeepers, cooks, maintenance workers, front-desk clerks and event managers in the Dallas area are working off the clock in violation of the law, the Wage and Hour Division discovered. More than 30 investigations of motels, hotels, hotel managing and hotel staffing agencies in Arlington, Dallas, Garland, Grapevine, Irving, Plano and Abilene found the practice was widespread. As a result, 639 hotel workers will receive \$180,000 in back wages. Investigators identified Dallas-based S & A Staffing as a major violator.

- [Read the News Release](#) <<http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzA1LjQyNDc0MjUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMwNS40MjQ3NDI1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTg0MDYzJmVtYWlsaWQ9bmlra2loYWxleUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWhhbGV5QGdvd5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&118&&&https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/partnerships/index.html>>

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Job Corps Center Answers the Call

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The Denison Job Corps is answering the call for skilled workers, a need expressed by Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds during a visit to the center on Feb. 26. Center management provided the state's leaders with a tour of the training programs and discussed some of the major construction projects on which recent graduates have worked. "The governor and his team had an opportunity to meet our students and see the future of the state's workforce," said Center Director Steve Reitan. "Many of our recent graduates credit their positions to the training they received through Job Corps." Currently 268 students are enrolled at the Denison Job Corps Center, learning skills such as brick masonry, tile setting, facilities management and carpentry. Medical training also is offered.

Weekly UI Claims

Seasonally adjusted initial Unemployment Insurance claims rose to 320,000 for the week ended Feb. 28, the department reported. The advance figure was up 7,000 from the previous week's unrevised level. The four-week moving average was 304,750, up 10,250 from the previous week's unrevised average.

- [Read the News Release <http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTg0MDYzJmVtYWlSaWQ9bmlra2loYWxleUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWhhbGV5QGdvdi5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&121](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTg0MDYzJmVtYWlSaWQ9bmlra2loYWxleUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWhhbGV5QGdvdi5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&121)