

August 2009 (Vol. 8, No. 7)

Kathleen Martinez Confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Office of Disability Employment Policy

On June 25, 2009, the Senate voted by unanimous consent to confirm Kathleen (Kathy) Martinez as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). Blind since birth, Ms. Martinez comes to ODEP with a background as an internationally recognized disability rights leader specializing in employment, asset building, independent living, international development, diversity and gender issues. Read more about [Assistant Secretary Kathleen Martinez](#).

SHRM's HR News Interviews U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis

In this interview, Secretary Solis responds to questions submitted to her by *HR Magazine* Senior Writer Bill Leonard about her goals and priorities for the U.S. Department of Labor and the employment of people with disabilities. [Read the interview with Secretary Solis](#).

Disability.gov: New Name and Look

In conjunction with the 19th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. Department of Labor has re-named and re-launched Disability-Info.gov as Disability.gov. Available at <http://www.disability.gov>, the site offers comprehensive information about programs and services to better serve more than 50 million Americans with disabilities, their family members, veterans, employers, educators, caregivers and anyone interested in disability-related information.

Disability.gov offers social media tools to encourage interaction and feedback, and new ways to organize, share and receive information. Visitors can sign up for personalized news and updates, participate in online discussions and suggest resources for the site.

The site is organized into 10 subject areas:

- Benefits
- Civil rights
- Community life
- Education
- Emergency preparedness
- Employment
- Health
- Housing
- Technology
- Transportation

By selecting a category, visitors are directed to useful information on federal and state government programs and services, news and events, grants and funding opportunities, and more. [Read the Press Release](#) or [the article on the SHRM Web site](#).

DID YOU KNOW...?

Linking to EARNWorks has its benefits. By linking to EARNWorks.com or displaying its logo in your advertisements, you demonstrate your interest and support in employing people with disabilities, as well as marketing products and services to customers with disabilities.

Link to EARNWorks.com.

New Brochure Released: Employer Perspectives on Employment of People with Disabilities. In the first survey of its magnitude, 3,797 businesses representing 2.4 million companies, across 12 industry sectors and various company sizes, reported on their beliefs about and strategies for recruiting, hiring, retaining and advancing employees with disabilities. The brochure provides a summary of the survey findings. Download the [brochure](#).

THE DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

July 2009

[Percentage of people with disabilities in the labor force:](#)

23.0 %

[Unemployment rate of persons with a disability:](#)

15.1 %

[Commonly Used Terms](#)

Accessibility Education in Chicago and Orlando

The Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) is excited to announce two upcoming accessibility events. Both events focus on the business case for accessibility, its associated technologies and provide insight from implementation success stories.

ATIA Leadership Workshop on Accessibility

October 29, 2009,
Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel & Convention Center
Schaumburg (Chicago), IL

Held in conjunction with the ATIA 2009 Chicago Conference, the ATIA Leadership Workshop on Accessibility provides educational sessions and networking opportunities specifically designed to help the leaders of today's corporate, government, and educational environments address accessibility issues. The Workshop discusses the business case for accessibility and its associated technologies and provides case studies of successful implementations and strategies.

Registration for the Workshop is now open. Visit the [Workshop homepage](#) for more details and agenda. Early Bird registration ends September 18th.

ATIA Leadership Forum on Accessibility

January 28-29, 2010
Caribe Royale Hotel & Convention Center
Orlando, Florida

In January 2010, the fourth annual Leadership Forum on Accessibility will be held in Orlando, Florida. The ATIA Leadership Forum on Accessibility is a two-day event designed specifically to help large corporations, government agencies and educational institutions derive business value through accessibility. During the two days you will hear the business case for providing accessible solutions for your employees and clients with case studies from major corporations, government agencies and educational institutions. There will also be the opportunity to see the latest technology from 125+ leading assistive technology manufacturers and service providers.

Registration for the Forum will open in September. Visit the [Forum homepage](#) for more details including past attendee testimonials and the schedule overview.

Both events are run so that attendees have access to the ATIA Exhibit Hall. The exhibit hall brings together the latest assistive technology and gives the attendees the ability to see what technology can be utilized to develop an organization wide accessibility strategy.

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

If you have an EARN success story, tell us about it. We would like to feature your story in this newsletter and on our Web site.

E-MAIL YOUR STORY TO:

EARN@EARNWORKS.COM

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

- [Disability.gov](#)
- [Office of Disability Employment Policy](#)
- [Job Accommodation Network](#)
- [Ticket to Work](#)
- [National Organization on Disability](#)

INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

New Resources Available for Staying Up To Date with the U.S. Department of Labor. You can follow the [Department](#) and [Secretary Hilda Solis](#) on Twitter. Also, be sure to [subscribe](#) to the [DOL News Brief](#) so that you don't miss an issue.

EARN SUPPORT

EARN is funded by the [U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy](#).



ODEP

Office of Disability
Employment Policy

EARN offers employers free consultation for successful workplace integration of people with disabilities. To sign up with EARN and to learn more about EARN services, go to www.earnworks.com or call us toll-free at:

1-866-EARN-NOW (1-866-327-6669, V/TTY)