

Date: October 3, 2023

From: Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness (006)

Subj: External Affinity Events Approved for Department of Veterans Affairs-Wide Participation for Fiscal Year 2024 (VIEWS 10755422)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials

1. I am sharing with you an attached list of external affinity events that are approved for Department-wide participation in fiscal year 2024. These events include national meetings convened by external private or public nonprofit organizations, representing diverse segments of the population, and are designed to promote equal employment opportunity and provide career development, education and employment outreach services. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) strongly supports leveraging partnerships with affinity groups for professional development and recruitment outreach purposes in support of our common goal of promoting inclusion, diversity, equity and access (I-DEA) throughout the Federal Government.

2. VA employees who plan to attend any of the events listed in the attachment are responsible for obtaining supervisory approvals. Please note that centralized funding is not available for attendance to these events. Funding for both registration and/or travel must come from the employee's organization. Following supervisory and budget approval, attendees who wish to participate must also register through the affinity organization's website.

3. The Office of Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness may approve and announce additional external affinity events on a case-by-case basis.

4. For more information, visit the [Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion website](#) or reach out to the VA point of contact listed for the specific event in the attachment. Thank you in advance for your support of these events as we collectively work to advance I-DEA in VA.

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Attachment

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
External Affinity Events Approved for VA-Wide Participation
Fiscal Year 2024

Event	Date	Location	VA Point of Contact
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Annual Conference www.hacu.net	October 28-30, 2023	Chicago, Illinois	Ms. Karen Basnight, VA's National Hispanic Employment Program (HEP) Manager (Acting)
Out & Equal Workplace Summit www.outandequal.org	TBD	Orlando, Florida	Mr. Sterling Akins, VA's National LGBTQ+ Program Manager
Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) Annual Conference on LGBTQ+ Health www.glma.org	TBD	TBD	Mr. Sterling Akins, VA's National LGBTQ+ Program Manager
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Emerge Latino Conference www.lulac.org	TBD (March 2024)	TBD	Ms. Karen Basnight, VA's National HEP Manager (Acting)
Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) National Leadership Training Program www.fapac.org	TBD (May 2024)	TBD	Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA's National Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Special Emphasis Program Manager
Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) National Training Program www.saige.org	TBD (June 2024)	TBD	Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA's National American Indian/Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program Manager
LULAC National Convention & Exposition www.lulac.org	TBD (July 2024)	TBD	Ms. Karen Basnight, VA's National HEP Manager (Acting)
Federally Employed Women (FEW) Leadership Summit www.few.org/national-training-program	TBD (July 2024)	TBD	Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA's National Federal Women's Program Manager

Event	Date	Location	VA Point of Contact
Blacks in Government, Inc. (BIG) National Training Institute www.bignet.org	TBD (August 2024)	TBD	Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA's Departmental Black/African American Special Emphasis Program Manager
African American Federal Executive Association (AAFEA) Leadership Development Workshop www.aafea.org	TBD (September 2024)	TBD	Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA's Departmental Black/African American Special Emphasis Program Manager
FAPAC Student Career Fair www.fapac.org	TBD (September 2024)	TBD	Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA's National AANHPI Special Emphasis Program Manager
National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Week Conference https://sites.ed.gov/whhbcu/hbcu-week-conference	TBD (September 2024)	TBD	Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA's Departmental Black/African American Special Emphasis Program Manager
Asian American Government Executives Network (AAGEN) Leadership Workshop www.aagen.org	TBD	TBD	Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA's National AANHPI Special Emphasis Program Manager