



Upcoming Events

July 2022

Independence Day

July 4

[Federally Employed Women's Third Virtual Leadership Summit](#)

July 18-22

[DIVAC Quarterly Meeting](#)

July 20

[League of United Latin American Citizens National Convention and Exposition](#)

July 25-30

32nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

July 26

National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

July 27



Image Credit: ADA National Network (adata.org) 1-800-949-4232

ORMDI

Steps Toward Conflict Resolution

You can contact ORMDI toll-free at 1-888-566-3982 (TDD/TTY, dial 711 before providing this number) and speak with a specialist regarding equal employment opportunity (EEO) complaint processing, Alternative Dispute Resolution, or harassment prevention. You must initiate contact with an EEO counselor within 45 days of the date of the alleged act of discrimination by calling 1-888-566-3982 or visiting your local ORMDI Field Office. The harassment prevention procedures do not affect rights under the EEO complaint process. Harassment should be reported immediately to a manager or supervisor, Harassment Prevention Coordinator, or the Harassment Prevention Program.

Commemorate

Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

VA joins the Nation in observing the 32nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26. From the [2021 Presidential Proclamation](#) on the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act:

“This landmark law affirms and protects the fundamental rights of people with disabilities — the right to equal opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and equitable participation in every aspect of American life. For more than three decades, the ADA has made our communities, our economy, and our country stronger and more vibrant. It has helped to uphold the dignity of the estimated 61 million Americans who live with a disability — in short, it is a triumph of American civil rights...

“Despite the extraordinary progress we have made over the past 31 years, the fight for equitable access and inclusion is far from over. The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the longstanding inequities and biases that exist for people with disabilities; persistent discrimination and the inability to access services continues to threaten the health and well-being of far too many Americans...

“As we celebrate the monumental legacy of the ADA, we recommit ourselves today to upholding and strengthening its protections — and continuing to advance equity, dignity, access, and inclusion together with the disability community as we build our Nation back better.”

For more information on VA’s Individuals with Disabilities Employment Program, visit the [ORMDI website](#) or contact Mr. Roberto Rojo, VA’s National Individuals with Disabilities Program Manager.



DAS Johnson

Message from the DAS

Harvey Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion

VA's Human Capital Services Center (HCSC) will soon be accepting applications for the next cohort of the Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program (SESCDP). An essential piece of VA's leadership development and succession planning efforts, SESCO DP prepares highly qualified leaders at the GS-14 and 15 level for Senior Executive roles by developing their competencies in each of the Executive Core Qualifications. SESCO DP provides executive mentorship, developmental assignments and virtual and in-person training to help you develop the competencies you need to succeed as an SES. HCSC is hosting Lunch and Learn sessions on July 6 and 26 to answer questions about the program and application process. For more information, contact the SESCO DP team at SESCDP@va.gov.

Training

The Audacity to Fail Podcast

The [Audacity to Fail Podcast: misStepping Into Success](#) focuses on discovering leadership wisdom through experiences with failures and missteps. The podcast features conversations and stories from VA leaders as they share how failure activates a growth mindset, is an important part of learning and provides motivation for improvement. On the June episode, Dr. Shari Dade takes a moment to connect with Dr. Erica Scavella, a member of Senior Executive Service (SES), who serves as the Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services and the Chief Medical Officer at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Listen in for a discussion on how to begin thinking about missteps or failures as breadcrumbs leading to your success! The series is also available on the [Talent Management System](#).

Workforce Recruitment Program

Share Career Advice as a Recruiter

Diversity is a strength of the Veterans we serve. Help VA strengthen our workforce by recruiting applicants with disabilities.

Are you a GS-9 or higher with at least two years of government experience?

If so, YOU can volunteer to recruit for the Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) and make a personal impact on the careers of motivated college students and recent graduates with disabilities. All job roles are eligible to apply for this opportunity.

What is WRP?

WRP connects employers to students and recent graduates with disabilities who are eager to join the workforce. The program offers opportunities to apply and interview for jobs to applicants who are covered by the Schedule-A Hiring Authority, which ensures equal opportunity for employment.

What is a WRP recruiter and how can I become one?

WRP recruiters conduct one-on-one informational interviews with applicants, helping them strengthen their interview skills and resumes. During these interviews, applicants receive valuable career advice and build the confidence needed to secure a job in their field.

Becoming a recruiter is simple. Follow these steps:

1. Ask your supervisor for permission. Recruiters conduct remote interviews during a three-week period in October and November. Your supervisor must agree to your 10–15-hour commitment.
2. Register at wrp.gov.
3. Complete an online training course.

For more information, visit the [WRP webpage](#) or contact the WRP staff at vawrp@va.gov.

External Affinity Conferences

VA employees who plan to attend any of the following external affinity conferences/events are responsible for obtaining supervisory approvals. Please note that centralized funding is not available for attendance. Funding for registration must come from the employee's benefitting program office:

Federally Employed Women's Third Virtual Leadership Summit

Federally Employed Women (FEW) will hold its third Virtual Leadership Summit July 18-22, 2022. The theme for this summit is "Leadership, Next Level: People, Person Passion." FEW is a private membership organization working as an advocacy group to improve the status of women employed by the Federal Government, with a focus on four major program areas: compliance, diversity, legislative and training. The summit will offer workshops on equal employment opportunity, human resources, information technology, management and leadership, and courses that address the Executive Core Qualifications required for the Senior Executive Service. Following supervisory and budget approval, attendees must also register on the [FEW website](#). For more information, contact Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA's National Federal Women's Program Manager, ORMDI.



League of United Latin American Citizens National Convention and Exposition

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Convention and Exposition will be held on July 25-30, 2022, at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico. LULAC's mission is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States. The LULAC Federal Training Institute will provide attendees with workshops, plenary sessions, and other activities that are geared towards enhancing one's career and leadership development skills, with much emphasis on the Executive Core Qualifications required for entry to the Senior Executive Service. Following supervisory and budget approval, attendees must also register on the [LULAC website](#). For more information, contact Ms. Karen M. Basnight, VA's Acting Departmental Hispanic Employment Program Manager, ORMDI.



Blacks In Government 43rd Annual National Training Institute

The Blacks In Government (BIG) 43rd Annual National Training Institute (NTI) will take place August 15-18, 2022, at the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland, Ohio. This year's theme is "Training in a Transformed Workplace – Providing Innovative Professional Development" BIG has four scheduled days filled with government leaders as guest speakers and workshops covering leadership development, career advancement, networking, and mental/health resilience. Following supervisory and budget approval, attendees must also register on the [BIG website](#). For more information, contact Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA's Departmental Black/African American Program Manager, ORMDI.



Annual National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week Conference

The Annual National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Week Conference is planned under the leadership of the White House Initiative on HBCUs and with input from the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs and its conference sponsors. It provides a forum to exchange information and share innovations among and between institutions. Stakeholders, including federal agencies, provide an overview of successful engagements that, if replicated, could improve instruction, degree completion, and the understanding of federal policies that shape and support higher education. This year's event will be held September 20-23, 2022, with the theme, "Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence and Economic Opportunity." For more information, visit the [HBCU website](#) or contact Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA's HBCU representative.



Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities 36th Annual Conference

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) will host its 36th Annual Conference on October 8-10, 2022, at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, California. The conference will include plenaries, luncheons, and networking opportunities, and it will provide a unique forum to share information and ideas for the most promising practices in the education of Hispanics. Following supervisory and budget approval, attendees must also register on the [HACU website](#). For more information, contact Ms. Karen M. Basnight, VA's Acting Departmental Hispanic Employment Program Manager, ORMDI.



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