

2010 National Farmworker Conference — Break-Outs Sessions

Monday, March 22		10:30 am – 12:00 pm
A1	Workforce Solutions	Rio Grande East
<p>Internship Opportunities for Farm workers Internships can serve as an effective means of exposing students to real life work situations while gaining experience that contributes to leadership development. This workshop will discuss the various internships that are available nationally for migrant students. The presenters will describe in detail the National HEP/CAMP Association Migrant Student Internship Program and how students can participate in internships with congressional offices or the Department of Education.</p> <p>Presenters: Dr. Arturo Martinez, HEP Director, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Javier Gonzalez, CAMP Director, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College</p>		
A2	U.S DOL —Monitor Advocate Professional Development Forum	Rio Grande Center
<p>Welcome Remarks Joseph C. Juarez, Regional Administrator, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Region IV, Dallas, TX Cynthia Watson, Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division, Dallas, TX</p> <p>Effective Strategies to Serve Farm Workers- Best practices on serving MSFWs through the One Stop system will be discussed. A local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Director will share best practices in providing the full range of services to MSFWs in terms of service integration, collaboration and co-enrollments. Presenter: Stewart Knox, Assistant Director, NoRTEC. Moderator; Diane Walton, Regional Monitor Advocate, Region VI – San Francisco, CA.</p>		
A3	Farm Workers and Rural Issues	Rio Grande West
<p>Farm Workers & Social Security -You will learn about Social Security benefits in this workshop. The session will focus on retirement, survivors, disability, and Medicare benefits. How do you qualify? What are credits? When can I apply? You will also learn about Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This program offers monthly benefits and Medicaid to qualified individuals who are blind, disabled, or at least age 65 with limited income. Find out about all these important benefits for you and your family. Get the facts how these benefits apply to you. Presenter: Oscar Garcia, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration</p>		
A4	Education: Issues & Opportunities	Blanco Room
<p>Effective General Education Diploma Training (GED)-The program focuses on the preparation for academically and economically disadvantaged adults and youth who desire to progress through life by improving their education and enhancing their employment opportunities. This partner based program utilizes community-based organizations with on-site testing of its students and a local technical college to expand service capacity and better meet the learning needs of students. Presenter: Pat Davila, Director of Development, UAMOS, Inc.</p>		
A5	Rural Entrepreneurship and Hispanic Farmers & Ranchers	Frio Room
<p>Marketing Your Agricultural Products/Valued Added Products</p>		

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Monday, March 22		01:30 pm – 03:00 pm
A6	Workforce Solutions	Rio Grande East
<p>Farm Worker Youth in the WIA/ARRA This workshop will provide information on how Workforce Solutions has implemented and disseminated funding under ARRA. The workshop presenters will explain how the Lower Rio Grande Valley Workforce Development Area invested the funding thru WIA to prepare youth in the workforce. The presentation will include testimonies from youth that benefited from this training and from employers that provided the mentoring and skills development that gave the youth the opportunity to gain job skills that could be applied in the labor market.</p> <p>Presenter: Santiago (Jimmy) Montez, Assistant Center Manager, Arbor E&T, Lower Rio Grande</p>		
A7	U.S. DOL —Monitor Advocate Professional Development Forum	Rio Grande Center
<p>DOL: Office of Foreign Labor Certification — H2A Final Rules – Job Order Process Workshop participants will learn the job order process under the current H2A regulations and receive up to date information on foreign labor certification.</p> <p>Presenter: Juan M. Regalado, National Monitor Advocate, U.S. DOL, National Office, Washington, DC</p> <p>Moderator: George Kincannon, Regional Monitor Advocate, Region I – Boston, MA</p>		
A8	Farm Worker and Rural Issues	Rio Grande West
<p>Employment Related Discrimination I Employees are protected from illegal discrimination. Farm workers, like all employees, face issues of illegal discrimination. In this session you will discover how to identify discriminatory acts based on race, color, gender, national origin and age. You will also learn the basics of disparate treatment claims, harassment, and illegal retaliation, as well as what farm workers should do if they are subjected to illegal discrimination.</p> <p>Presenter: Rodney Klein, Education and Training Manager, U.S. EEOC</p>		
A9	Education: Issues & Opportunities	Blanco Room
<p>Improving Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) The President’s Executive Order 13166 funds an array of services that can be made accessible to eligible persons who are not proficient in the English language. This order directs each federal agency to examine the services it provides in English and how the services impact LEP persons. The order also directs that meaningful steps must be taken to ensure access to programs and activities by LEP persons, and that programs do not discriminate on the basis of national origin, which would be in violation of Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.</p> <p>Presenter: Naomi Barry-Perez, Chief, Office of Internal Enforcement Civil Rights Center, U.S. Department of Labor</p> <p>Moderator: Francisco Cerda, Texas State Monitor Advocate, Texas Workforce Commission</p>		
A10	Rural Entrepreneurship and Hispanic Farmers & Ranchers	Frio Room
Local Farm to School and Other Institutions		

Monday, March 22		03:15 pm – 4:45 pm

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A11	Workforce Solutions	Rio Grande East
<p>Agriculture Skills Upgrades This workshop will focus on ways in which farm workers can increase skills, improve their income and position within the agricultural industry. The OIC of Washington State operates a unique program called the Community Agricultural Vocational Institute (CAVI), which comprises the OIC, Washington Farm Bureau, and the Washington Grower’s League. The presentation will review how this partnership provides training in areas such as farm safety and health, in addition to assisting farm workers gain upgraded skills to meet the expanding needs of the grower.</p> <p>Presenters: Gilbert Alanis, Director of Special Projects, Dr. Alfonso, Garcia, Coordinator, Opportunities Industrialization Center of Washington.</p> <p>Moderators: Korene Gonzalez, Employment & Training Director, Community Council of Idaho; Rita Garcia-McManus, Director of Workforce Development Division, HELP New Mexico</p>		
A12	U.S. DOL —Monitor Advocate Professional Development Forum	Rio Grande Center
<p>State Workforce Agency/Workforce Investment Boards Connection Participants will hear from guest panelists from the workforce investment community on how they establish and coordinate service delivery policies with partners and stakeholders in their states to improve services to MSFW’s and employers.</p> <p>Presenters: Steve Duran, Executive Director, Southwest Region LWB, New Mexico, Ken Kelnhofer, Director, Employment Security Department, Department of Labor programs, Washington</p> <p>Moderator: Jesus Morales, Regional Administrator, Region IV – Dallas, TX</p>		
A13	Farm Worker and Rural Issues	Rio Grande West
<p>Updates on Immigration Reform and Guest Worker Programs Farm worker advocates will provide updates on the status of immigration reform, the outlook of AgJOBS and the new H-2A regulations issued by the Department of Labor. Presenters will outline and present other administrative actions and on-going legal challenges.</p> <p>Presenters: Adrienne Dervartanian, Senior Attorney/Policy Analyst, Farmworker Justice,;Javier Riojas, Attorney, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid; Francisco Cerda, State Monitor Advocate, Texas Workforce Commission</p>		
A14	Education: Issues & Opportunities	Blanco Room
<p>Social Innovation Center The Latino Economic Development Center’s “Social Innovation Center” is a complex model <u>that includes</u> both retail and service businesses development. The objective of the center is to explore and develop new opportunities for entrepreneurs by integrating them into a larger network with a smarter and environmentally friendly usage of space, and technology. The workshop will focus on sharing ideas, culture, products, services and resources which result in new organizations, businesses, investors, buyers and producers.</p> <p>Presenters : Daniel Bonilla, Program Coordinator, Yolanda Cottoral, Greater Minnesota Program Coordinator, Latino Economic Development Center</p> <p>Moderator: Ramon Leon, President, LEDC</p>		
A15	Rural Entrepreneurship and Hispanic Farmers & Ranchers	Frio Room
<p>Farming & Farm Workes: American Food Safety Currently, there are few sanitation laws and regulations at the farm level, but that could change with increasing concerns about food safety. Farm products that are linked to outbreaks of E. coli or Salmonella, can harm many people: consumers, farmers, packers, shippers, and grocers. Learn the latest food safety techniques to avoid becoming the headline news as a producer of tainted products.</p> <p>Presenter: Juan Anciso, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Extension Vegetable Specialist</p>		

2010 MAFO National Farmworker Conference —Breakout Sessions

Tuesday, March 23		08:30 am – 10:00 am
B1	Workforce Solutions	Rio Grande East
<p>Effective Outreach to Farm Workers and Youth This workshop will provide information on different styles and methods of how to effectively outreach and serve farm workers and youth from three areas of the country. Participants in this workshop will be given the opportunity to look at the different styles and methods of effective outreach and make decisions on which would work best for your agency's needs.</p> <p>Presenters: Eduardo Mata, MSFW Outreach Specialist, Texas Workforce Commission; Olga Ruiz, State Monitor Advocate, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; and Paulo Reynoso, Director of Operations, NAF Multicultural Human Development Corporation</p>		
B2	U.S. DOL —Monitor Advocate Professional Development Forum	Rio Grande Center
<p>Wage & Hour: Coordinated Enforcement & Farm Worker Investigations This presentation will describe a general overview of some of the laws enforced by Wage Hour that affect farm workers and the agricultural community. Included will be a discussion of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA), the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) as it relates to field sanitation. This will be an open forum that will encourage questions and dialogue throughout the presentation.</p> <p>Presenters: James Kessler, Chief, Branch of Farm Labor, Wage & Hour Division, Washington, DC; Michael Speer, Wage & Hour Division, Farmworker Specialist. Dallas, TX, Naomi, Barry-Perez, Chief, Office of Internal Enforcement, Civil Rights Center, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC</p>		
B3	Farm Workers and Rural Issues	Rio Grande West
<p>Employment Related Discrimination II In this session, you will learn what constitutes religion under Title VII and the basics of accommodation cases based on religion and disability. You will hear the latest information on the American with Disabilities Act Amendment Act of 2008. You will discover what employers can and cannot ask applicants and employees about their health. And, you will hear the latest information on the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the first law signed by President Obama. A must for anyone serving the farm worker community.</p> <p>Presenter: Rodney Klein, Education and Training Manager, U.S. EEOC</p>		
B4	Education: Issues & Opportunities	Blanco Room
<p>Effective Student Retention Strategies in Post Secondary Education The impact of stimulus funding on institutions of higher education, such as the American Graduate Initiatives, will be measured by the increase in the graduation rate of students who enroll in higher education. Effective student retention strategies are key factors that result in higher rate of college completion. This workshop will outline key strategies such as improvement/redevelopment of academic advising programs, special orientation programs, establishment of early warning systems, and curricular innovation in accredited programs.</p> <p>Presenters: Dr. Arturo Martinez, HEP Director, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Javier Gonzalez, CAMP Director, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College</p>		
B5	Rural Entrepreneurship and Hispanic Farmers & Ranchers	Frio Room
<p>Essential Business Practices: Recordkeeping & Financial Issues Farming is a complex business which demands accurate records and careful financial planning. Knowing the profit or loss of your business provides information on which farm managers can make critical decisions. Unfortunately, farming is been viewed as "a way of life" rather than as a business, resulting in the lack of using financial management tools available in other industries. Learn the essential business practices and what Farm Service Agency programs are available to help farmers succeed.</p> <p>Presenter: Carlos Lago, Special Project Coordinator, University of Texas Pan-American; Juan Garcia, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency</p>		
Tuesday, March 23		01:30 pm – 03:00 pm

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B6	Workforce Solutions	Rio Grande East
<p>It's Not Easy Being Green....But it is Worth the Effort! The HELP-New Mexico's workforce development division will share how their training priorities for participants were transformed into the emerging arena of "Green Jobs" and how they were influenced by the State of New Mexico's Green Economy Initiative. Key funding opportunities became the catalyst in developing creative ways to partner with education and training organizations to teach skills and competencies currently in demand that can lead to an industry-recognized certificate. Join this workshop to learn about a high demand cluster training for 'Green Jobs'!</p> <p>Presenters: Tom Savage, HELP-NM - NW Area Regional Manager; Roni Spetalnick, HELP-NM -SW Area Regional Manager; Patrick Martinez, HELP- NM - Workforce Development Division Team Leader; Rita Garcia-McManus, HELP-NM - Workforce Development Division Director</p>		
B7	U.S. DOL —Monitor Advocate Professional Development Forum	Rio Grande Center
<p>Human Trafficking Human trafficking and indentured servitude are abuses that often go unreported due to fear or lack of knowledge. In this session, attendees will learn how to assist the Department of Justice (DOJ) in conducting investigations and referring complaints to DOJ. Presenters will also discuss how to coordinate and enhance outreach activities.</p> <p>Presenter: Teresa Segovia, Department of Justice, Washington, DC</p> <p>Moderator: Eric Hernandez, Regional Monitor Advocate, Region V – Chicago, IL</p>		
B8	Farm Worker and Rural Issues	Rio Grande West
<p>Immigration Service Project: This workshop will provide participants with the different stages of planning and implementing an Immigration Service Project. The process, design, implementation phase, pitfalls, monitoring and perhaps, most important, the session will prepare an organization to be ready for immigration reform measures, should reform become legislation.</p> <p>Presenter: Pat Davila, Director of Development, UAMOS, Inc.</p>		
B9	Health Issues Impacting Farm Workers and Rural Communities	Blanco Room
<p>The Effect of Swine Flu (H1N1) and Rural Communities Migrant and seasonal farm workers are a population that is highly vulnerable to pandemic flu due to their economic and social marginality and their already impaired health status. Crop workers and their families could benefit greatly from the H1N1 vaccine. The Center for Bio-Security, from the University Of Pittsburgh Medical Center, will present a study on social threats to the health and well-being of farm workers in the U.S. in connection with the 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak. Also, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Migrant Council will present their Prevention, Education and Outreach Campaign to alleviate the effects of H1N1.</p> <p>Presenters: Esperanza Gonzalez, Director of Minority Health Programs, Illinois Migrant Council; Omayra Giachello, Regional Health Officer, Administrative Law Judge with the Illinois Department of Public Health; Kunal Rambhia, Analyst, Center for BioSecurity from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)</p>		
B10	Rural Entrepreneurship and Hispanic Farmers & Ranchers	Frio Room
<p>Entrepreneurship in Rural America - Opportunities for Latinos Promoting a dynamic business environment in rural America is the goal of Rural Development, Business and Cooperative Programs (BCP), Business Programs (BP). BP works in partnership with the private sector and community-based organizations to provide financial assistance and business planning. BP helps fund projects that create or preserve quality jobs and/or promote a clean rural environment. The financial resources of BP are often leveraged with those of other public and private credit source lenders to meet business and credit needs in under-served areas.</p> <p>Presenters: Judith A. Canales, Administrator, Business and Cooperative Programs</p>		
Tuesday, March 23		03:15 pm – 04:45 pm

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B11	Workforce Solutions	Rio Grande East
<p>Career Readiness Certificates CareerReady Colorado is a state certificate, signed by the Governor, which certifies job seeking skills. The certificate initiative creates common and objective standards for employment readiness and establishes meaningful skills standards for all workforce partners. WorkKeys assesses Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information. WorkKeys does not replace existing degrees or certificates, it is an additional tool to help demonstrate mastery of the skills sets and competencies employers are requesting in job applicants. Certification of work-applied foundation skills show that job seekers have the readiness to benefit from employer-provided training.</p> <p>Presenters: Betty Velasquez, SE / SC Regional Director, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and Olga Ruiz, State Monitor Advocate, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment</p>		
B12	U.S. DOL —Monitor Advocate Professional Development Forum	Rio Grande Center
<p>Tools for the Monitor Advocates Participants will learn about the different tools that are available to State Monitor Advocates (SMAs) and Regional Monitor Advocates (RMAs) to track and improve performance. Tools will include 5148, 9002, Monitor Advocate Duties and Responsibilities, and collaboration and connection with the 167s, National Farmworker Jobs Programs.</p> <p>Presenter: Juan Regalado, National Monitor Advocate, U.S. DOL, Washington, DC</p> <p>Moderator: Dennis Dougherty, Regional Monitor Advocate, Region II – Philadelphia, PA</p>		
B13	Farmworker and Rural Issues	Rio Grande West
<p>Anti-Discrimination Provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act.</p> <p>Presenters: Soraya Yanar Hanshew, Attorney, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid</p>		
B14	Health Issues Impacting Farmworkers and Rural Communities	Blanco Room
<p>Addressing Pesticide & Environmental Risks to Build Stronger Farmworker Communities This workshop will describe the negative impact of environmental factors on the health and safety of agricultural workers. Presenters will use interactive exercises to demonstrate effective educational tools to help farm workers avoid pesticide contamination as well as prevent heat illness and work safely in the sun.</p> <p>Presenters: Brienne Brown, Program Coordinator, Occupational Health Surveillance Program, DSHS; Amanda Wickman, Education and Outreach Coordinator, SW Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention & Education; Alicia Gonzales, Director of Leadership Development and Training, National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.</p>		
B15	Rural Entrepreneurship and Hispanic Farmers & Ranchers	Frio Room
<p>Good Agricultural Practices Cornell University conducts one of the country's leading educational programs for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). GAP is a collection of practices for on-farm production and post-production processes, resulting in safe agricultural products, while taking into account economical, social and environmental sustainability. The GAP approach can address the demand-side of consumers and retailers, the supply-side priorities of producers and laborers, and those institutions and services that are bridging supply and demand.</p> <p>Presenter: Elizabeth A. Bihn, M.S., GAPs Program Coordinator, Cornell University, Department of Food Science</p>		