

Eight Federal Employees Honored with Judith C. Gilliom Award at the Workforce Recruitment Program Annual Awards Ceremony

On July 26, 2018, the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Labor hosted the annual Workforce Recruitment Program awards ceremony at the Pentagon Conference Center.

The Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) awards ceremony recognized eight outstanding participants, recruiters and coordinators who achieved significant accomplishments in their organizations.

The 2018 award recipients are:

Mr. Antoine Craig, WRP Participant
Defense Contract Management Agency

Ms. Cristina Rivera, WRP Participant
Defense Logistics Agency

Mr. Benjamin Sanders, WRP Participant
Department of Air Force

Ms. Judith Tuazon, WRP Participant
Department of Navy

Ms. Molly Fore, WRP Recruiter,
Department of Air Force

Ms. Alyssa Schreiner, WRP Recruiter
Defense Logistics Agency

Ms. Meena Farzanfar, WRP Coordinator
Department of Navy

Ms. Birgit Persaud, WRP Coordinator
Army and Air Force Exchange Service

Mr. Gregory Slavonic, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Mr. Robert Woods, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, accepting on behalf of Department of Navy, WRP Component

Ms. Valerie Wagoner, Associate Equal Employment Opportunity Diversity and Inclusion Officer, accepting on behalf of Army and Air Force Exchange Service, WRP Component

The ceremony featured remarks from Mr. Patrick Mannix, Senior Advisor, Office of Disability Employment Policy; Mr. William Booth, Director, Defense Human Resource Activity; and keynote speaker Ms. Lauren Aggen, EEO Specialist, U.S. Department of the Army.

Mr. Clarence Johnson, Director of the Diversity Management Operations Center, reflected on the history of the WRP and the current program milestones, while highlighting new plans for the future. “These efforts,” Mr. Johnson stated, “have led us to explore new ways to leverage the WRP, extending its reach to be even more inclusive.”

For more than 20 years, the WRP has been advancing employment opportunities for college students and recent graduates with disabilities. The WRP is a federal recruitment and referral program that connects federal sector employers nationwide and around the globe with college students and recent graduates with disabilities for summer internships and permanent jobs.

The Office of Personnel Management and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has recognized the WRP as a model strategy for recruiting individuals with disabilities.

The WRP serves as a vital pipeline of talent to help build a diverse, inclusive, and mission ready workforce in the Federal government. In 2018, the WRP database contained profiles of over 1,800 job candidates from nearly every state, and represented more than 115 colleges and universities nationwide, representing all academic backgrounds. The WRP participants serve nationwide and around the globe, including Europe and South Korea. In Fiscal Year 2018, DoD has the possibility for a record-breaking year, with 319 hires to date.

The WRP awards honor the legacy and advocacy of Judith C. Gilliom, who served as the DoD Disability Program Manager for 25 years and was one of the founders of the WRP. Ms. Gilliom is represented as an exemplar in the Pentagon’s Defense Career Civilians of Distinction display.