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Equal Employment Opportunity Monthly Bulletin
“Promoting EEO, Diversity, and Education”

February 2024



National Black History Month

The DoD theme for the National Black History Month observance is, “African Americans and the Arts,” in recognition of African American arts and artisans.

African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and Black American influences.

African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Americans of African descent have led artistic and cultural movements, such as New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, Hip-Hop, and Afrofuturism, and been at the forefront of popular trends around the world. In celebrating the history of African Americans and their contributions to the arts, DoD recognizes and celebrates the richness of the past and present with an eye toward what the rest of the twenty-first century will bring.

The poster highlights Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) band director Private First Class Lenora Hull Brown. Brown was the teacher and leader of WAAC Band #2, an all-black female military band, later designated the 404th Armed Service Forces (ASF) WAAC band, the only all-black female band in U.S. military history. Embedded within the silhouette’s shoulders is a photograph of the 404th ASF Band members standing in formation with their instruments and PFC Lenora Hull Brown in military uniform.



Famous African American Artists That Any Art Lover Should Know

For centuries, African American artists have helped shape the visual culture of the United States. Often channeling their familial backgrounds and personal experiences in their work, these creative figures have influenced and inspired much of American art's evolution. Two important artists are presented below:

Sculptor Edmonia Lewis has the distinction of being the first African American and Native American artist to rise to national and international prominence. Born free in Upstate New York, Lewis began her career as a sculptor in Boston. Early success funded a trip to Rome, Italy, where she spent most of her career. Her [Neoclassical](#) sculpture often touched on themes related to her African American and Native American heritage. She was so respected that she was invited to produce a piece for the 1876 Centennial Exposition and President Ulysses S. Grant commissioned a portrait bust from her. Though her popularity dwindled as interest in Neoclassical art waned, her legacy as a trailblazer never faded.

In 1918, a groundbreaking movement emerged in New York City. Known today as the [Harlem Renaissance](#), this “golden age” of art, literature, and music transformed the Harlem neighborhood into a cultural hub for African Americans, with [Augusta Savage](#)'s many contributions at its core. Savage was a Florida-born sculptor. In 1921, she moved to New York City, where she attended The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, a scholarship-based school. After earning her degree (an entire year early), she was asked by the Harlem Library to create a bust of civil rights activist and writer W. E. B. Du Bois—a piece that put her on the map.

Today, Savage's role in the Renaissance is mostly attached to teaching and advocacy. In 1935, she co-founded the Harlem Artists Guild, an organization that advised the neighborhood's African American artists; and, in 1937, she established the Harlem Community Art Center, where she led sculpting classes and helped launch the careers of African American artists, including Jacob Lawrence.

Sex Discrimination

Medsurant Holdings, LLC, a Pennsylvania-based healthcare services company providing intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring services to hospitals and surgeons in several states will pay \$80,000 to settle a sex discrimination lawsuit.

Medsurant Health's monitoring services are performed by intraoperative neurophysiology monitorists, and according to the EEOC's lawsuit, Medsurant paid a female monitorist less than her male coworkers for performing equal work, despite her excellent credentials and performance history. After she complained, the company retaliated against her and treated her worse than similarly situated male colleagues, resulting in her constructive discharge.

EEOC Issues Article On Workplace Accessibility

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) issued an article titled “Providing an Accessible Workplace.” The article provides an overview of the laws that federal agencies must comply with to provide individuals with disabilities access to accommodations to ensure they are able to participate fully in the workplace. It focuses on accommodations that improve access to job facilities, physical spaces, and information technology. Also, it provides information about where agencies can find additional resources to help them comply with anti-discrimination and accessibility laws.

Federal agencies have a legal obligation under Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act to provide reasonable accommodations, if requested, for their qualified employees and job applicants with disabilities (unless the agency can show that reasonable accommodation would cause an undue hardship). A reasonable accommodation, such as a change in the work environment or the way in which the work is performed, helps ensure that such federal employees will be able to perform the essential functions of their positions and enjoy all the benefits and privileges of employment as other employees. newsroom@eec.gov

Anti-Harassment No Fear Training FY(24)

The annual No FEAR and Anti-Harassment training has changed for fiscal year 2024. Training is no longer available online and must be conducted in person. There are two modules, one for supervisors and one for non-supervisors. All employees and supervisors of civilian employees to include active-duty Soldiers who supervise civilian employees are required to attend the training. The training will be offered every quarter in the Fort Jackson theater on 7 December; 21 March; 20 June and 19 September. Non-supervisor training will occur in the morning session (1030) and supervisor training will occur in the afternoon session (1530). For more information contact Mr. Timothy Gladders at timothy.b.gladders.civ@army.mil.