

Women In Trucking Association Participated in the First Roundtable for Women in Blue Collar Transportation Careers

June 14, 2011

Washington DC: The inaugural roundtable for women working in blue collar transportation careers was held on Friday, June 3rd at the U.S. Department of Transportation. This roundtable included representatives of 25 organizations from a broad array of transportation fields, including women who drive trucks and buses, operate ships, trains and pipelines, build roads and bridges, and fix airplanes.

During the meeting, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood highlighted that women are an important part of our nation's transportation workforce and encouraged participants to work together to address the unique challenges that exist for women across the industry. Following this charge, participants actively worked to identify both the challenges and strategies for creating opportunities for women in areas that are traditionally held by their male counterparts.

Sara Manzano-Diaz, Director of the Women's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Labor, provided an overarching picture of women working in America and the particular challenges faced by women in blue collar types of careers. These include a lack of information about opportunities for women, feelings of isolation for women working in male dominated trades, and the limited availability of equipment sized for women.

"This event was intended to bring women from transportation related trade groups together to identify issues that cross our industries," said Ellen Voie, Women In Trucking's President/CEO, who assisted in coordinating the session. "It was a great opportunity to learn about these organizations and the challenges they face that might be similar to those in the trucking industry," Voie added.

Leigh Foxall, WIT's Chairwoman of the board also attended, "We are proud to be working with the US Department of Transportation and the related agencies to address concerns women face in their blue collar careers and to help overcome obstacles that might keep women away from these great paying jobs."

The U.S. Department of Transportation and Women In Trucking Association will continue to work with the U.S. Department of Labor and the organizations represented to enhance opportunities for women to participate in these important careers.

Women In Trucking Association, Inc (www.womenintrucking.org) was established in 2007 to encourage the employment of women in the trucking industry, promote their accomplishments and minimize obstacles faced by women working in the trucking industry. Membership is not limited to women, as 16 percent of its members are men who support the mission Women In Trucking Association, Inc. is supported by its members and the generous support of Gold Level Partners, Frito-Lay North America and Walmart.

Ellen Voie
President/CEO
Women In Trucking
Association, Inc.