

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



random sample, from which it drew specific results for its report.

According to the survey report, many women in the United States are the breadwinners and some the sole support of their families. However, the women are not getting the pay and benefits commensurate with the work they do, the level of responsibility they hold or the societal contribution they make.

Women make up half of the American workforce and many of those women have families that are very important to them, according to survey results.

"(The women) feel that neither their employers nor public policy adequately recognize or support women's family responsibilities," the survey report states. "They report that problems with child care are deep and pervasive, affecting families across the economic spectrum."

Working women reported that they have valuable skills and on-the-job experience, but often do not get recognition and credit for what they can do. The women also report they do not have access to training to build their skills and increase their marketability.

Of critical concern to many women are health and pension benefits. Forty-three percent of women who work part-time and 34 percent of women over 55 years old lack health care insurance. These percentages far exceed the 18 percent of the general population who lack health insurance, the report states.

Fifty-seven percent of the women surveyed give their pension plans negative ratings, including 23 percent who have no pension at all.

—U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR
11/20/96

"Are we to look at cherry blossoms only in full bloom, the moon only when it is cloudless? To long for the moon while looking on the rain, to lower the blinds and be unaware of the passing of the spring — these are even more deeply moving. Branches about to blossom or gardens strewn with flowers are worthier of our admiration."

Yoshida Kenko
Essays in Idleness, c. 1340

EDUCATION

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

■ (WASHINGTON) A weekly look at progress on the U.S. Department of Education Secretary Richard Riley's priorities as of November 14, 1996

Goals 2000

Utah is using Goals 2000 funds to support 32 projects this school year, including a Professional Inquiry Center serving secondary schools in 5 school districts. For information on Utah's previous Goals 2000 grants, please see: www.usoe.k12.ut.us/pubs/goalprof.html

School-to-Work

The School-to-Work National Employer Leadership Council (NELC) recently posted on its web site a tool employers can use to support activities that connect students & teachers to the workplace & enhance company practices: the "Employer Participation Model." For more information on NELC & to see the Employer Participation Model, please visit: www.nelc.org

FCC Decision on Universal Service

Secretary Riley hailed the November 7 recommendation from the Federal-State Joint Board to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as "good news for American education." Under the recommendation, which is based on 8 months of deliberation over a 40,000-page record, Secretary Riley said that "Almost 70 percent of all schools will get at least a 50 percent discount on a wide range of telecommunications services. By providing the deepest discounts to schools with the largest number of poor children — discounts of up to 90 percent — the Joint Board begins to give these schools a real start to being part of the ongoing telecommunications revolution."

The full text of the Board's recommended decision & related information are available at: www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Reports/decision.html

Preventing Youth Crime & Violence

"Preventing Crime & Promoting Responsibility: 50 Programs That Help Communities Help Their Youth" is available from the President's Crime Prevention Council. Descriptions of 50 federal prevention programs & lists of federal resource centers, clearinghouses, and publications are included. For a copy or to be placed on the Council's mailing list please call (202) 395-5555, fax (202)

395-5567 or write the President's Crime Prevention Council, 736 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Hammer Award

Six teams in the Department received the Vice President's 1996 Hammer Award this month in recognition of their contributions to the President's National Performance Review principles of putting customers first, cutting red tape, empowering employees, & getting back to basics. The award went to: the Office for Civil Rights serving the Cleveland region, the Office for Civil Rights serving the Kansas City region, the Cooperative Audit Resolution & Oversight Initiative (a partnership among 4 ED offices and 3 states — Florida, Mississippi, & Washington — to streamline the audit resolution process), the Multi-Input Performance Appraisal System (GPAS) Team (for the performance appraisal system which combines "Pass or Fail" with 360 degree evaluations of employees by their supervisors, co-workers, & customers), the Rehabilitation Services Administration partnership with the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (for streamlining the process of providing services to rehabilitation agency customers), and the Reinvention Coordinating Council & the 14 teams it chartered (for fostering a climate of reinvention & positive change for the Department & its customers).

Online Library

Recent additions to our Online Library from the National Center for Education Statistics include:

✓ Remedial Education at Higher Education Institutions in Fall 1995

✓ Out of the Lecture Hall & Into the Classroom: 1992-93 College Graduates & Elementary/Secondary School Teaching, With an Essay on Undergraduate Academic Experiences

✓ National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1995-96: Student Financial Aid Estimates for Federal Aid Recipients, 1995-96

✓ Report in Brief: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 1994 Trends in Academic Progress

✓ Overview of Public Elementary & Secondary Schools & Districts: School Year 1994-95

✓ A Descriptive Summary of 1992-93 Bachelor's Degree Recipients One Year Later: With an Essay on Time to Degree

✓ How Different, How Similar? Com-

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