

# THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

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## President Obama Announces New Education Initiative

On Thursday, President Obama visited Mooresville Middle School in Mooresville, North Carolina where he announced ConnectED – a new initiative which directs the FCC to work with all levels of government to bring high-speed Internet to 99 percent of America’s students within the next five years.



During his visit, President Obama highlighted how Mooresville Middle School has embraced technology to implement a cutting edge curriculum which is already benefiting its students.

The President spoke of the important role our education system has to play in ensuring the next generation of Americans enters the workforce with all of the skills and training they need. ConnectED will transform our classrooms to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and promote innovation in schools nationwide.

President Obama said:

“And in an age when the world’s information is a just click away, it demands that we bring our schools and libraries into the 21st century. We can’t be stuck in the 19th century when we’re living in a 21st century economy.

“And that’s why, today, we’re going to take a new step to make sure that virtually every child in America’s classrooms has access to the fastest Internet and the most cutting-edge learning tools. And that step will better prepare our children for the jobs and challenges of the future and it will provide them a surer path into the middle class. And, as a consequence, it will mean a stronger, more secure economy for all of us.”

The President said that currently only 20 percent of educators feel that their classrooms have the connectivity to teach as effectively as possible. Thousands of schools around the nation cannot provide enough connection to stream two videos at once, while school such as Mooresville Middle School can afford to provide all children in the classroom their own individual digital devices.

Read President Obama’s full remarks in Mooresville [here](#).

### [Vice President Biden on the Passing of Senator Frank Lautenberg](#)

Vice President Biden released the following statement on the passing of his friend and former colleague, the late New Jersey Senator Frank Lautenberg, who passed away on Monday at the age of 89.

"Frank Lautenberg's work created immediate benefits for tens of thousands of Americans and he was one of my closest friends in the Senate. The son of working class immigrants, Frank served honorably in World War II, went to college on the G.I. bill and came back to build one of the most successful companies in America. He's the reason why people can't smoke on airplanes, why domestic abusers can't possess guns. He worked tirelessly against drunk driving, and co-wrote the new G.I. Bill because he knew first-hand what it could do. I consider it a privilege to have known him, to have worked with him, and to have called him my friend. Jill and I will truly miss Frank. Our hearts go out to his children and his wife Bonnie."

Vice President Biden joined members of the Lautenberg family, many Senate colleagues, and friends at the late Senator's funeral on Wednesday in New York City. The Vice President and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton each honored Senator Lautenberg with heartfelt eulogies.

Click [here](#) to listen to the Vice President share some of his memories of Senator Lautenberg in the latest installment of the "Being Biden" audio series.

### [President Obama Honors Civil Rights Hero](#)

On Tuesday, President Obama met with Myrlie Evers-Williams, the widow of Medgar Evers, in the Oval Office to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death.



On June 12, 1963, Evers was shot in front of his home in Jackson, Miss. As the NAACP's first field secretary in Mississippi, Evers fought tirelessly for school integration and was instrumental in organizing boycotts against businesses that denied basic services to African Americans.

Evers' work and tragic death inspired Civil Rights activists all over the nation and his legacy endures.

During the visit, President Obama stated that Evers was a warrior for justice, and that the tragedy of his death turned into a rallying cry for a movement.

## President Obama Announces National Security Personnel



On Wednesday, President Obama announced U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice as his next National Security Advisor and Samantha Power as the next U.N. Ambassador. Susan Rice replaces retiring National Security Advisor Tom Donilon.

Speaking of all three public servants, the President said:

"This team of people has been extraordinarily dedicated to America. They have made America safer. They

have made America's values live in corners of the world that are crying out for our support and our leadership. I could not be prouder of these three individuals -- not only their intelligence, not only their savvy, but their integrity and their heart."

Of Ambassador Rice, the President said:

"Susan was a trusted advisor during my first campaign for President. She helped to build my foreign policy team and lead our diplomacy at the United Nations in my first term. I'm absolutely thrilled that she'll be back at my side, leading my national security team in my second term."

Of Samantha Power, President Obama said:

"As a senior member of my national security team, she has been a relentless advocate for American interests and values, building partnerships on behalf of democracy and human rights, fighting the scourge of anti-Semitism and combatting human trafficking. To those who care deeply about America's engagement and indispensable leadership in the world, you will find no stronger advocate for that cause than Samantha."

Watch the President's full remarks [here](#).

## [White House Hosts National Conference on Mental Health](#)

On Monday, the White House hosted health care experts, psychologists, veterans advocates, faith leaders, members of congress, and administration officials for a National Conference on Mental Health.

The day-long conference featured a panel, presentations, and discussions about best practices for to reduce the stigma associated with mental health and improving outreach to at risk communities and individuals.

Joined by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, and Veteran Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki in the East Room of the White House, President Obama said:

"We know that recovery is possible, we know help is available, and yet, as a society, we often think about mental health differently than other forms of health. You see commercials on TV about a whole array of physical health issues, some of them very personal. And yet, we whisper about mental health issues and avoid asking too many questions.

"The brain is a body part too; we just know less about it. And there should be no shame in discussing or seeking help for treatable illnesses that affect too many people that we love. We've got to get rid of that embarrassment; we've got to get rid of that stigma.



"Too many Americans who struggle with mental health illnesses are still suffering in silence rather than seeking help, and we need to see it that men and women who would never hesitate to go see a doctor if they had a broken arm or came down with the flu, that they have that same attitude when it comes to their mental health."

Monday's conference was one of many steps President Obama's administration has taken to raise awareness and improve care for those with mental health issues.

Read President Obama's full remarks at the conference [here](#).

## **DNC Chair Celebrates LGBT Pride Month**

On Saturday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement marking the start of LGBT Pride Month:

"Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month is celebrated each year to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York and the progress we've seen since then. The Stonewall riots were an important moment for the movement for LGBT equality in our country. The Democratic Party is the party of full equality for all Americans and we stand shoulder to shoulder with the LGBT community in the drive for equal rights.

"We've seen remarkable progress under the leadership of President Obama. The President oversaw the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' implemented hospital visitation rights for LGBT couples, and established and developed the first comprehensive National HIV/AIDS Strategy. His administration filed a brief with the Supreme Court urging them to strike down Proposition 8, and he became the first sitting U.S. President to announce his support for full marriage equality for LGBT Americans. We have a lot to be proud of.

"We also know we have more to do. As we celebrate LGBT Pride Month and how far we have come together, let us recommit to the cause of full equality under the law for every American. Let's make it clear that equality is not an aspiration, it's a destination we will reach together."

## **President Obama Announces Nominees for the D.C. Circuit Court**



On Tuesday, President Obama nominated Patricia Millett, Nina Pillard and Robert Wilkins to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

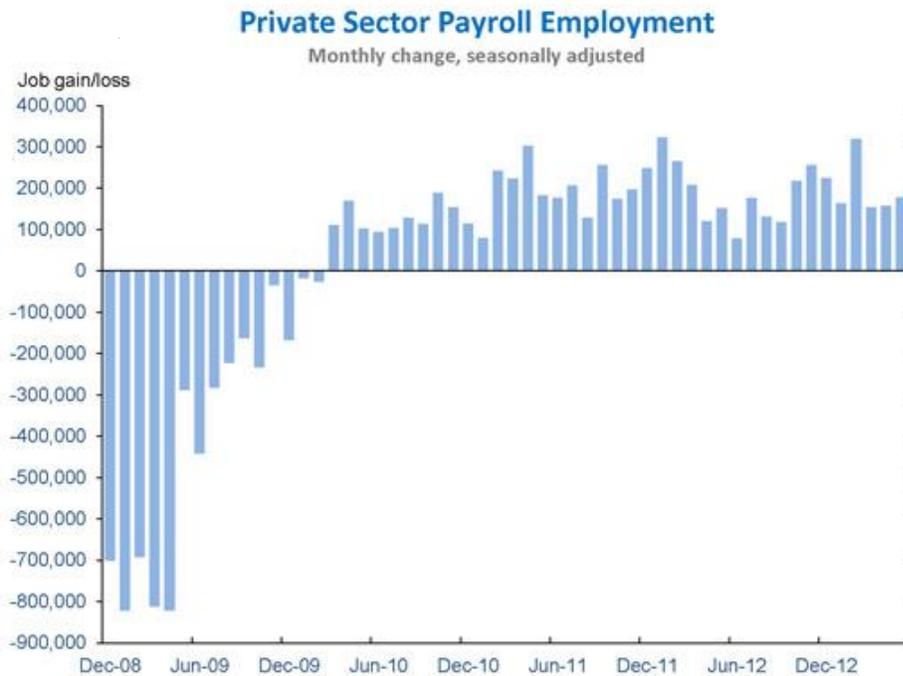
President Obama said:

"The D.C. Circuit is known as the second highest court in the country, and there's a good reason for that," the President said. "The judges on the D.C. Circuit routinely have the final say on a broad range of cases involving everything from national security to environmental policy; from questions of campaign finance to workers' rights. In other words, the court's decisions impact almost every aspect of our lives."

Read the President's full remarks [here](#).

## CEA Chairman's Statement on the Employment Situation in May

Alan B. Krueger, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, issued the following statement on today's Bureau of Labor Statistics' jobs report for May, which shows that the private sector added 178,000 jobs last month. May marks the 39<sup>th</sup> month in a row the private sector has added jobs for a total of nearly 6.9 million over that period.



"While more work remains to be done, today's employment report provides further confirmation that the U.S. economy is continuing to recover from the worst downturn since the Great Depression. It is critical that we remain focused on pursuing policies to speed job creation and expand the middle class, as we continue to dig our way out of the deep hole that was caused by the severe recession that began in December 2007...

"With the recovery gaining traction, now is not the time for Washington to impose self-inflicted wounds on the economy. The

Administration continues to urge Congress to replace the sequester with balanced deficit reduction, while working to put in place measures to create middle-class jobs, such as by rebuilding our roads and bridges and promoting American manufacturing. The President will continue to press Congress to act on the measures he called for in his State of the Union address to make America a magnet for good jobs, help workers earn the skills they need to do those jobs, and make sure their hard work leads to a decent living.

"According to the establishment survey, in May employment rose notably in professional and business services (+57,000, of which +25,600 were in temporary help services), bars and restaurants (+38,100), retail trade (+27,700), and education and health services (+26,000). Construction added 7,000 jobs and has grown in 11 of the last 12 months, adding 189,000 jobs over that period. Government jobs fell by 3,000, with the Federal government (excluding postal) losing 9,400 jobs. Local government added 13,000 jobs, and with revisions has now expanded for three months in a row, a welcome sign that the unprecedented job losses in the local government sector may be nearing an end.

"As the Administration stresses every month, the monthly employment and unemployment figures can be volatile, and payroll employment estimates can be subject to substantial revision. Therefore, it is important not to read too much into any one monthly report and it is informative to consider each report in the context of other data that are becoming available."

You can view the statement [HERE](#).

### [DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz Congratulates Congressman Dingell on Historic Accomplishment](#)

On Friday, Congressman John Dingell became the longest-serving member of Congress. To mark this historic occasion, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"I congratulate Representative Dingell for his historic accomplishment and decades of service in Congress. He is not only a leader, but an inspiration to all Americans.

"Congressman Dingell's service is not just marked by the time he has spent in Congress; it's marked by what he has accomplished serving his country. As a member of the Greatest Generation he enlisted in the Army in 1944 at the age of 18 and rose to the rank of second lieutenant. In Congress he has served his state of Michigan and all Americans with distinction. Congressman Dingell has been instrumental in hallmark pieces of legislation ranging from the creation of Medicare to the Civil Rights Act and the Clean Air Act to the Affordable Care Act and so much more.

"On behalf of the DNC, I send my warmest wishes and congratulations to my colleague, Congressman Dingell, his wife Debbie and the rest of the Dingell family."

### [President Obama Welcomes President Piñera of Chile to the White House](#)



On Tuesday, President Obama welcomed President Piñera of Chile to the White House. During a bilateral meeting, the two leaders discussed ways to pursue economic growth, job creation, transparency, human rights and the rule of law.

President Obama said:

"We've got strong relationships throughout the hemisphere, but the relationship between the United States and Chile is as strong and as important as any of the relationships that we have. Chile has been on a remarkable growth trajectory over several decades, and the progress that it's made in terms

of strengthening its economy, pulling people out of poverty, establishing a strong manufacturing and industrial and service base, its strong exports sector are all proof of the talents of the Chilean people but also Chile's embrace of democracy and human rights and a market economy. And as a consequence, Chile has become not only a leader in the hemisphere but also a leader in the world."

Read the President's full remarks [here](#).