



The NASWA Employment & Training (E&T) Committee's December meeting was a success, with 33 state leaders and almost half the states represented, impressive speakers, and robust state roundtable discussions. **Chair Tamika Ledbetter (AK)** led the meeting with support from **Vice-Chair Deniece Thomas (TN)**.

Thank you to **Secretary Ava Dejoie** and her staff for the "Louisiana Showcase." **Rhett Covington, Assistant Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Corrections**, discussed the state's heralded criminal justice reform initiative. **Lt. Col. Paul Perron, Director of Cyber, Louisiana Air National Guard**, provided information on the Guard's 'cyberbattalion' and the cybersecurity measures state agencies should take. **Judge Sherel Keller**, Director of the Office of Workers' Compensation in Louisiana, discussed efforts in Louisiana to enhance integrity and tax fairness by combatting employee misclassification and employer payroll fraud.

Other meeting highlights included:

- A discussion on the Continuous Improvement Workgroup's DRAFT WIOA reauthorization recommendations, which the Committee agreed to continue to refine before forwarding to the NASWA Board.
- Joint sessions with the NASWA Unemployment Insurance Committee (on RESEA) and the NASWA Veterans Committee (on integrating veterans' programs and staff under WIOA).
- A panel discussion with key USDOL partners -- attending were **ETA Assistant Secretary John Pallasch; UI Administrator Gay Gilbert, and Workforce Investment Administrator Kim Vitelli**.
- Sharing state challenges and innovations during the State Roundtable sessions.

The Committee's next meeting will be February 11th, in Washington, DC, before the NASWA Winter Policy Forum.