

2013 Henry Viscardi Achievement Award Recipient



Kathleen Martinez
Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor

Kathleen Martinez is an assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Labor where she leads the Office of Disability Employment Policy and oversees the development of coordinated national policies that advance the employment of people with disabilities, including veterans and youth. Through *Add Us In*, one of her signature initiatives, she is developing models to increase the capacity of small businesses, including those in underrepresented and historically excluded communities, to successfully employ people with disabilities. Blind since birth, Martinez came to Labor with a background as an internationally recognized disability rights leader specializing in employment, asset building, independent living, international development, diversity, and gender issues. Martinez previously served as executive director of the World Institute on Disability and, as a leader with bipartisan support, was appointed to the board of the U.S. Institute of Peace, the State Department advisory committee on international disability policy, and the National Council on Disability.

“Receiving the Viscardi Award is an honor, and I am privileged to be in a position to advance the principles of the Department of Labor for Americans with disabilities,” Martinez said. “Employment is the game changer that is essential to ensuring the full inclusion of people with disabilities throughout our society. It is important that we are vigilant in enhancing opportunities for profitable employment, protecting work-related benefits and rights, and guaranteeing fair compensation for *all* members of the diverse American workforce.”