



## News Release

### U.S. General Services Administration

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#### **GSA Regional Administrator Joins Brigadier General to Tour Mayaguez IFB**

NEW YORK, NY - U.S. General Services Administration Northeast and Caribbean Regional Administrator Denise L. Pease joined with Brigadier General J.A. "Yogi" Mangual (retired) to tour the Industries for the Blind manufacturing facility in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico today. Pease, whose office is in the region's New York City headquarters, is the first [GSA](#) Regional Administrator to visit the Mayaguez location, which employs more than 100 individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Mangual is Executive Vice President and President of Puerto Rico Operations for [Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind](#).

"President Obama wants everyone to have a good job that offers security and gives their families the tools they need to build their own economic futures, that includes those of us with disabilities being hired for our abilities. The President is committed to ensuring that people living with disabilities have fair access to jobs so they can contribute to our economy and realize their dreams," stated Pease. "I felt it was important to start my first trip into this part of the region touring the WSIFB. Being a woman with a disability, I have direct knowledge of the challenges of getting back to work and I was honored to see this facility and witness the vital contributions they are making to our society on a daily basis."

GSA's procurement programs support the needs of its customer federal government agencies. The agency purchases a wide variety of products through the [AbilityOne](#) program from facilities such as the one in Mayaguez which produces and sells a number of products to the U.S. government. The AbilityOne Program, under the federal Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, helps provide employment opportunities for people who are blind or severely disabled.

Pease, who joined GSA in September 2010, is an advocate for the disabled and is on the board of directors of the Epilepsy Foundation of America and chairperson of its African American Initiative. Because of her own experience with a disability caused by a vehicle accident, she knows first hand the challenges faced by disabled workers in their efforts to find employment and is very supportive of the President's efforts to expand access to federal employment for the disabled.

In addition to supporting programs such as AbilityOne, Pease is committed to helping make government facilities and offices more accessible for the disabled. Last year, Pease was instrumental in the launch of a new page on the agency's website. The page, [www.gsa.gov/disability](http://www.gsa.gov/disability), consolidates all of GSA's information and resources on accessibility support, accessible products and programs in one place, including a link to the White House Office of Disability Policy.

To learn more about the Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind and the center in Mayaguez, please visit: [www.wsifb.com](http://www.wsifb.com)

To learn more about the AbilityOne program, please visit: [www.abilityone.com](http://www.abilityone.com)

To learn more about GSA and Denise Pease, please visit: [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)

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As the federal government's workplace solutions provider, the U.S. General Services Administration works to foster an effective, sustainable and transparent government for the American people. GSA's expertise in government workplace solutions include:

- Effective management of government assets including more than 9,600 government-owned or leased buildings and 250,000 vehicles in the federal fleet, and preservation of historic federal properties;
- Leveraging the government's buying power through responsible acquisition of products and services making up approximately 14 percent of the government's total procurement dollars;
- Providing innovative technology solutions to enhance government efficiency and increase citizen engagement; and,
- Promoting responsible use of federal resources through development of governmentwide policies ranging from federal travel to property and management practices.