

News Release



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Alltel Communications Inc. in Little Rock, Ark., agrees to pay 539 rejected female applicants \$275,000 to remedy hiring discrimination

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) today announced that the Alltel Communications Inc. facility in Little Rock, Ark., has settled the department's allegations that the company engaged in hiring discrimination based on gender over a one-year period against 539 female applicants for the positions of financial service and technical support representatives.

"The Labor Department is committed to ensuring that all Americans who seek employment with federal contractors and subcontractors are hired, promoted and compensated fairly, without regard to their race, sex, ethnicity, disability, religion or veteran status," said OFCCP Deputy Assistant Secretary Charles E. James Sr. "This settlement of \$275,000 on behalf of 539 female applicants should put all federal contractors on notice that the Labor Department is serious about eliminating systemic discrimination."

OFCCP investigators found that female applicants were disproportionately eliminated from employment as compared to similarly-situated male applicants.

Under the terms of the conciliation agreement, Alltel will pay 539 female applicants \$275,000 in back pay and interest, hire 22 women from among these applicants, immediately correct any discriminatory practices and undertake extensive self-monitoring measurements for two years to ensure that all hiring practices fully comply with the law.

Alltel, a provider of telecommunication equipment to the General Service Administration, the Department of the Navy and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was cooperative during the review and subsequent conciliation.

OFCCP, an agency of the Department of Labor's Employment Standards Administration, enforces Executive Order 11246 and other laws that prohibit employment discrimination by federal contractors. The agency monitors federal contractors to ensure that they provide equal employment opportunities without regard to race, sex, color, religion, national origin, disability or veteran status.

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