



**National Association of State Workforce Agencies
 Unemployment Insurance Interstate Benefits Subcommittee
 Presents Unemployment Insurance Awards**

March 15, 2016 (Tucson, Arizona) - The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) Unemployment Insurance (UI) Interstate Benefits Subcommittee presented two national awards for the first time today.

Judi Luther, Operations Coordinator for the Connecticut Department of Labor, received the inaugural UI Interstate Benefits Subcommittee Award of Excellence, and Lorraine Balli, Interstate and Federal Program Coordinator for the New York State Department of Labor, received the inaugural UI Interstate Benefits Subcommittee Award of Merit for Distinguished National Service. The awards were bestowed



during the National Interstate Benefits and Federal Program Training, where state employees from across the country gathered to learn best practices in providing methods for the exchange of information among states to support UI claims and workforce security objectives.

Luther was chosen to receive the Award of Excellence because of her dedication and commitment to excellence as a member of the NASWA UI Interstate Benefits Subcommittee. Balli was chosen to receive the Award of Merit for Distinguished National Service because of her extensive work on testing national applications for the processing of military unemployment insurance claims. The Subcommittee is the overseeing body for state UI agreements, interstate benefits processes and procedures and the states' voice for the federal UI and combined wage claim programs.

Scott B. Sanders, Executive Director of NASWA, praised Luther's and Balli's work and acknowledged that, "administration of the unemployment insurance program is often a thankless job, but it is critical to ensure the benefits are going to those who truly need it," he said. "Thanks to Judi and Lorraine, this work is being done with a passion to serve others."

"The state employees who work on these programs are incredibly dedicated and are key to the strength of our unemployment insurance system," said Dianne Carpenter, Chair of the UI Interstate Benefits Subcommittee Award of Excellence and Director of Unemployment Insurance for New Hampshire Employment Security. "They have the desire to ensure our program continues to improve and we are grateful for their work," she said.

Serving as a dedicated member of the UI Interstate Benefits Subcommittee for 8 years, Judi Luther has been a main point of connectivity for state staff across the country. She has worked in the Interstate Benefits federal program for over twenty-three years and serves as the co-chair of the Subcommittee's Technology Workgroup.

Lorraine Balli is viewed as an expert on UI interstate benefit claims, ex-service member benefits and federal employee's benefits. She is very responsive to other state's requests for information and passionate about the public she serves and programs she works with. Balli played a large role in identifying and informing several states about a national ex-service member benefits fraud case.