



**Areté Associates**  
9301 Corbin Avenue, Suite 2000  
Northridge, CA 91324  
(818) 885-2200  
(818) 885-2210 Fax

---

**A NOTICE AND INVITATION TO ALL EMPLOYEES AND APPLICANTS**

**H. Lee Buchanan, President and CEO**

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY STATEMENT**

Areté Associates has been and will continue to be an equal opportunity employer. To assure full implementation of this equal employment policy, we will take steps to assure that:

- a. Persons are recruited, hired, assigned and promoted without regard to race, national origin, religion, age, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by local, state, or federal laws, rules, or regulations.
- b. All other personnel actions, such as compensation, benefits, transfers, layoffs and recall from layoffs, access to training, education, tuition assistance and social recreation programs are administered without regard to race, national origin, religion, age, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by local, state, or federal laws, rules, or regulations.
- c. Employees and applicants shall not be subjected to harassment, intimidation, threats, coercion or discrimination because they have: (1) filed a complaint; (2) assisted or participated in an investigation, compliance review, hearing or any other activity related to the administration of any federal, state or local law requiring equal employment opportunity; (3) opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any federal, state or local law requiring equal opportunity or (4) exercised any other right protected by federal, state or local law requiring equal opportunity.
- d. Employees and applicants for employment have the right to inquire about, discuss, or disclose their own compensation or that of other employees or applicants through ordinary means such as conversations with co-workers. Arété Associates will not discharge or in any other manner discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because such employee or applicant has inquired about, discussed, or disclosed the compensation of the employee or applicant or another employee or applicant. This provision shall not apply to instances in which an employee who has access to the compensation information of other employees or applicants as a part of such employee's essential job functions discloses the compensation of such other employees or applicants to individuals who do not otherwise have access to such information, unless such disclosure is in response to a formal complaint or charge, in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action, including an investigation conducted by the employer, or is consistent with the contractor's legal duty to furnish information.

I have appointed Sallie DiVincenzo, Chief Administrative Officer, to take on the responsibilities of EEO Officer. The EEO Officer will be responsible for the day to day implementation and monitoring of the Company's Affirmative Action Plan. As part of that responsibility, the EEO Officer will periodically analyze the Company's personnel actions and their effects to ensure compliance with our equal employment policy and administer the audit and reporting system.

If you, as one of our employees or as an applicant for employment, have any questions about this policy or would like to view portions of the Affirmative Action Plan, please contact Sallie DiVincenzo during regular business hours. This is also a reminder that employees may update their disability status at any time by contacting Sallie DiVincenzo.

I have reviewed and fully endorse our Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity program. In closing, I ask the continued assistance and support of all of the Company's personnel to attain our objective of equal employment opportunity for all.

Sincerely,

H. Lee Buchanan  
President and CEO