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THE *SKILLSOURCE* GROUP, INC. RECEIVES GRANT TO DELIVER JOB TRAINING AND WORKFORCE SERVICES TO NORTHERN VIRGINIA VETERANS

February 21, 2013 - The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. (*SkillSource*), the non-profit arm of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board (Workforce Area #11), was awarded \$249,629 from the Virginia Community College System's Rapid Response Assistance Program for Veteran's Employment. This funding will be used to connect Northern Virginia area veterans with high-demand jobs and careers. *SkillSource* will place 150 dislocated workers who are veterans with training skills that result in industry-recognized credentials and placement into occupations within targeted high-growth and high-wage industry sectors over an eighteen month period. *SkillSource* will work collaboratively with the Virginia Employment Commission as well as Northern Virginia Community College's Adult Career Pathways program.

The *SkillSource* project was one of eight awards in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as announced by Governor McDonnell on February 13, 2013. Virginia's Community Colleges are funding the partnerships with \$1.8 million in grants. Taken together, the innovative partnerships are expected to serve more than 700 people annually.

"We have worked to make Virginia the best state for military families to live and find work after they finish their service," said Governor Bob McDonnell. "Today, I am pleased to announce another cost-effective strategy to serve those veterans and their families. By knocking down walls between programs and agencies and leveraging the great work these terrific organizations serving veterans already do, we can better help our heroes find good-paying jobs and promising careers."

The projects selected for funding include regional and statewide strategies and tools to train and employ veterans in healthcare, advanced manufacturing and information technology, among other fast-growing industry sectors. These career pathways for veterans include additional tools to reward veterans with college credits for prior learning and for skills obtained in the armed forces.

Dr. David C. Miles, the Chairman of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board and the Miles-Lehane Companies, Inc. said, "Veterans face a number of challenges upon their return home, with stable employment being a critical need. The public workforce system has a responsibility to work together with Virginia's Community Colleges, the Virginia Employment Commission, and other state agencies to help connect our veterans to training and employment opportunities."

The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. and the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board serve over 1.9 million residents and thousands of businesses within the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William and the cities of Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. For more information, please call (703) 752-1606 or visit www.myskillsource.org.

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