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SKILLSOURCE RECEIVES VIRGINIA BOARD FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE AWARD FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS

July 9, 2014 – The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. (non-profit arm of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board) has received a \$50,000 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Incentive Award from the Virginia Board of Workforce Development (VBWD). Funds will be used to continue a job developer responsible for placing veterans into meaningful employment and developing relationships with regional employers to hire veterans. This initiative is part of *SkillSource*'s Veterans Team that assists with ongoing employer development and job placement for veterans in the Northern Virginia region. *SkillSource* was one of three local workforce areas in Virginia awarded funding through a competitive process.

“Veterans continue to face challenges as they transition to civilian life, with stable employment being a critical need. The public workforce system remains committed to connecting our veteran job seekers with Northern Virginia business owners,” said **Todd Rowley**, the Chairman of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board and a Senior Vice President for Cardinal Bank. “Through strong funding support from the VBWD, *SkillSource* will enhance its ability to assist both veterans and employers in Northern Virginia.”

SkillSource has greatly expanded outreach and services for veterans through several targeted initiatives. As of June 2014, the current Veterans' Job Developer has placed 52 veterans into employment at an average wage of nearly \$37/hour or \$76,960 annually. Since 2011, *SkillSource* has provided assistance to thousands of veterans and has nearly tripled, from just two years ago, the number enrolled in Northern Virginia WIA programs. The VBWD grant award will increase the number of veterans placed into employment in high-growth industries and with meaningful wages.

“We are thrilled to receive financial support from the Virginia Board for Workforce Development. The funding will allow our Northern Virginia *SkillSource* Centers to continue the enormous success we've achieved placing veterans into high-paying, high-skilled employment,” said **Lesley Channell**, Vice Chairman of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board and Vice President for Human Resources of Reston Hospital Center, HCA Virginia Health System. “Through this initiative, *SkillSource* will continue to collaborate with the many Northern Virginia businesses to educate and advocate for hiring veterans.”

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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**A non-profit entity of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board
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