



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board of Directors Welcomes 9 New Members *Members Represent Many of Austin's Key Economic Aspects*

AUSTIN – Workforce Solutions Capital Area welcomes nine new members to its Board of Directors, representing many industry sectors and organizations in the Austin region. The Board of Directors' 26 members are volunteer community leaders representing business, education, labor, economic development, community-based organizations, and government.

"We're excited to welcome our new Board Members, because they bring a wide variety of perspectives and ideas—and share the same strong enthusiasm—for making Austin an even greater place to live and work," said Cesiah Kessler, Board Chair and Senior Regional Vice President at Experis.

Tamara Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer at Workforce Solutions Capital Area, said, "The strength of a community depends on the people that live in it, so it is valuable to have Austin community leaders on our Board of Directors to guide us toward improving the quality of life of Austin residents and enhancing the economic competitiveness of the Austin/Travis County area."

The new members began their three-year terms on November 1, 2018. Joining the Board of Directors are:

Leonard Aguilar, Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer at Texas State Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. He began in this role in January 2017, and previously worked for the Southwest Pipe Trades Association in San Antonio, TX, from 2010 to 2016. Leonard will represent organized labor.

Jerry Briones, Director of Business Recruitment at the Pflugerville Community Development Corporation (PCDC). He has served in this role since May 2018, and previously led his own consulting business and worked as Director of Global Outreach and Development for the Brownsville Economic Development Council in Brownsville, TX. Jerry is a veteran who served honorably in the United States Marine Corps as a sergeant. Jerry will serve as veterans representative, and also represent economic development.

Marie Felan, Executive Director of AVANCE. She has served in this role since 2014, and previously served as Director of Fund Development for Manos De Cristo in Austin from 2012 to 2014. Marie will represent community-based organizations and has expertise in child care and early childhood education.

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Sheila Fata, Division Chief Nurse Executive at St. David's Healthcare & HCA's Central West Texas Division in Austin. Sheila has served in this role since 2017, and with HCA since 2015. She will represent private sector large/for-profit businesses (500 employees or more).

Mojdah Gharbi, Co-Owner and VP of Marketing and Operations at Certain Affinity. Mojdah has served in this role since 2012, and previously served in several sales, operations and business roles for Microsoft in Redmond, WA from 2000 to 2012. Mojdah will represent private sector small/for-profit businesses (fewer than 500 employees).

Terry Fahey Mattson, VP of Customer Operations and Site Lead at Allergan. Terry has served in this role since 2015, and previously served as VP, Customer Service and Sales Operations – Integration Leader for Smith & Nephew, Inc. in Austin from 2014 to 2015. Terry will represent private sector small/for-profit businesses (fewer than 500 employees).

Thomas Miranda, President/CEO of Sparkovation Advisors. Thomas has served in this role since 2012, and previously served as Senior Manager of WW Customer Operations, Business Management and Strategy for Cisco Systems in Austin from 2010 to 2012. He will represent private sector small/for-profit businesses (fewer than 500 employees).

Melanie Moore, Executive Director at the KDK-Harman Foundation. She has served in this role since 2013, and previously served as Editor-in-Chief at Austin Fit Magazine from 2011 to 2012. She will represent the Texas Interagency Literacy Council.

Yesenia Hernandez Plascencia, Senior Director of Global Human Resources at Visa, Inc. She has served in this role since 2015, and previously served as Director, Global Gap Factory Field for Gap, Inc. in San Francisco from 2014 to 2015. She will represent private sector large/for-profit businesses (500 employees or more).

Craig Shapiro, Associate Superintendent of High Schools for Austin Independent School District. Craig has served in this role since 2016, and previously served as Principal of David Crockett High School in Austin from 2008 to 2016. He will represent education.

For the full list of the Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board of Directors, visit www.wfscapitalarea.com.

About Workforce Solutions Capital Area

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board is the publicly-funded workforce board for Travis County. Through strong partnerships and strategic collaborations, Workforce Solutions is leading the region's workforce system in the development of a world-class workforce. For more information, visit www.wfscapitalarea.com.

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