



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Workforce Solutions Capital Area Recognized for Commitment to Hiring Veterans with Second “We Hire Vets” Award



From left: Michelle Gilbert, Veterans Career Advisor and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist at Texas Veterans Commission; Dale York, Veterans Career Advisor at Texas Veterans Commission; Tamara Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Solutions Capital Area; Cesiah Kessler, Senior Regional Vice President at Experis and Chair of Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board of Directors; and Ruth R. Hughs, Chair and Commissioner Representing Employers of the Texas Workforce Commission.

AUSTIN – Workforce Solutions Capital Area has earned recognition for the second year in a row for committing to hiring veterans with the “We Hire Vets” award from the Texas Workforce Commission. Today, 14 percent of Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board employees are veterans.

“Service in uniform teaches commitment and integrity, and our veteran team members demonstrate this every day in their roles serving the communities of the Austin metro area,” said Tamara Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Solutions Capital Area. “In 2018, we became the first workforce board in the state of Texas to receive this recognition, and we are honored to be awarded again in 2019.”

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Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board's veteran employees served in the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, and have a combined 19 years of service.

The Texas Workforce Commission, with the Texas Veterans Commission and Texas Workforce Solutions Offices, launched the "We Hire Vets" employer recognition program in July 2017. Employers whose workforce is composed of at least 10 percent military veterans are eligible for recognition, which includes a display decal for employers' storefronts and an electronic decal to display on employers' websites. The "We Hire Vets" program is part of the Texas Workforce Commission's Texas Operation Welcome Home initiative.

"Congratulations to Workforce Solutions Capital Area for showing their commitment to hiring and retaining our Texas veterans," said Ruth Ruggero Hughs, Chair and Commissioner Representing Employers of the Texas Workforce Commission. "Veterans bring a level of leadership, high skills and honor to a company that will strengthen any business."

Supporting Texas veterans is part of Workforce Solutions Capital Area's mission. Veterans receive priority for job and training referrals at Workforce Solutions Capital Area's three Career Centers. Career specialists at the centers are specifically trained to help veterans of the U.S. military to achieve maximum employment and training opportunities.

Workforce Solutions Capital Area also participates in the annual Hiring Red, White & You! job fair in November, a statewide effort to connect Texas veterans with employers ready to hire. Learn more about how [Workforce Solutions Capital Area serves veterans](#).

More than 500,000 employers do business in Texas. In 2016, there were about 1 million veterans in the Texas labor force, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

### **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](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com).

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