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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SKILLSOURCE GROUP, INC. ANNOUNCES THIRD YEAR OF ITS NORTHERN VIRGINIA EDUCATING YOUTH THROUGH EMPLOYMENT (EYE) PROGRAM

May 19, 2008 – The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. (*SkillSource*), the nonprofit entity of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board (NVWIB), is pleased to announce the 3rd year of the Educating Youth through Employment (EYE) program. The EYE Program has enabled local schools, private businesses and other community partners to support meaningful and relevant summer work experiences for young adults in Northern Virginia. Local employers have an opportunity to *hire* or *sponsor* a youth for summer work experience within their industry sector, and young adults utilize this work opportunity as career interest and exploration. *SkillSource*, in coordination with the Fairfax County's Youth Employment and Training Services, has successfully implemented this employer-driven summer employment initiative for participants between the ages of 16-21 in the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William since 2006.

Participating young adults are assessed for an interest in exploring specific career opportunities, but who may lack the skills or experience to secure a first-time employment opportunity on their own. The recruitment, prescreening and preparation of participating young adults are conducted by Fairfax County youth employment specialists, under contract to *SkillSource*. These experts provide ongoing support to the young adults throughout the summer program.

The *SkillSource* EYE program has become a valuable opportunity for selected young adults to contribute to the economic growth of their community, while providing an avenue to explore different work areas that could influence their future education and career paths. Employers benefit by cultivating potential new workers for their company or industry, while contributing to the community where their employees live and work. Young adults benefit from the opportunity to obtain valuable work experience, explore career options and apply their classroom knowledge to a real-world work environment.

The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. and the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board represents more than 20,000 businesses and over 1.8 million residents within the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William and the cities of Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. For more information on the program, please visit www.myskillsource.org or call Ms. Seema Jain at the SSG in Vienna, Virginia at (703)752-1606.

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