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THE *SKILLSOURCE* GROUP, INC. RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL LEADER IN HELPING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES RETURN TO WORK

June 2, 2016 -- The *SkillSource* Group, Inc., the non-profit arm of the Northern Virginia Workforce Development Board (Workforce Area #11) announces that as of May 2016, the *SkillSource* Ticket to Work Program has placed 106 Social Security disability beneficiaries into jobs at an average wage of \$13.96/hour (\$29,037 annually), and has helped over 1,000 Ticket holders explore whether returning to work is right for them. As a result of these efforts, the *SkillSource* Group has achieved a significant milestone of earning over \$500,000 in Ticket revenues since becoming a Workforce Employment Network (EN) for the Social Security Administration in October 2010.

The Ticket to Work Program is a Federal-local initiative that supports career development for Social Security disability beneficiaries age 18 through 64 who want to work. The Ticket program is free and voluntary and helps people with disabilities progress toward financial independence. By offering Ticket as one of multiple programs to Northern Virginia job seekers, *SkillSource* has increased opportunities and choices for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries to obtain training, employment, vocational rehabilitation, and other support services from public and non-profit partners within the Northern Virginia Workforce System.

Through the success of the Northern Virginia Ticket to Work Program, the *SkillSource* Ticket to Work Program Director, Lauren Parker, has been selected as one of 10 nationally-recognized Disability Employment Initiative Ambassadors. Ambassadors will serve on a panel of responders, along with the National Disability Institute, on Ticket and Workforce EN Peer Communities of Practice. Ambassadors will work with other Employment Networks across the nation and highlight new opportunities to strengthen services and programs for disabled adult jobseekers seeking employment.

The Chairman of the Northern Virginia Workforce Development Board, Todd W. Rowley, noted that “The Northern Virginia Workforce Development Board commends the *SkillSource* Group Ticket to Work Employment Network staff for building a nationally-recognized program in less than five years of operations. This Initiative is opening new doors of employment and self-sufficiency for many Northern Virginians who simply want to work and live their life independently. As Board Chairman, I could not be prouder of our collective efforts to bring local employers and Ticket jobseekers together”.

The Ticket to Work program allows SSDI or SSI beneficiaries to keep their benefits while they explore employment, receive vocational support and gain work experience. To learn more about the *SkillSource* Group’s Ticket to Work services, visit this link.

The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. and the Northern Virginia Workforce Development Board (Workforce Area #11) serve over 1.9 million residents and tens of 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
enhancing workforce excellence and economic prosperity*