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PRESS RELEASE

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Veterans To Graduate From Job Readiness Program for Long-term Unemployed

LAS VEGAS, NV —The Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) is pleased to announce a graduation ceremony for the veteran participants of Platform to Employment, a program designed to assist the long-term unemployed in returning to work. The cohort of 21 has successfully completed a variety of classes that focused on rebuilding employment skills lost when unemployed for long periods of time.

The ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 22, 2016 at Vegas PBS at 3050 E. Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89121.

“We are pleased to graduate another successful cohort of this worthwhile program,” said Renee Olson, administrator for DETR’s Employment Security Division. “This is an extremely positive program that has assisted these veterans in mitigating barriers to employment that often result from being out of work for a long time. We are very proud of these participants and their dedication to following the program.”

This is the sixth class to complete P2E statewide, but the first all-veteran cohort. In the first four classes, approximately 73 percent of program participants have successfully returned to work. Including the fifth class of recent graduates, 66 percent of program participants statewide have returned to work.

Nevada was among 32 states to be awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to assist Nevada’s long-term unemployed jobseekers in re-entering the workforce. The grant totaling \$1,830,497 was awarded through the Job-Driven National Emergency Grant program. DETR partnered with The WorkPlace, southwestern Connecticut’s regional Workforce Development Board, to bring P2E to Nevada.

“Platform to Employment is about creating a meaningful impact on individual lives and fostering a willingness to learn while rebuilding self-confidence,” said Joseph Carbone,” president and CEO of The WorkPlace. “Each graduate has made significant progress and is a success story.”

The P2E program offers individuals a five-week preparatory program, including skills assessment, career readiness workshops, employee assistance programs, coaching and more. Upon program completion, P2E assists participants in finding open positions at local companies.

Placements are made on a trial basis, and are paid for by the program. The expectation is that if the company is satisfied with the performance of the candidate, a full-time job will ensue. Platform to Employment subsidizes the wages of the job candidate for up to eight weeks, providing employers a risk-free opportunity to evaluate the candidate and determine if a good match exists.

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DETR is comprised of the Employment Security Division, Equal Rights Commission, Rehabilitation Division, and the Research and Analysis Bureau. DETR works in partnership with the Nevada JobConnect System to provide training and job placement services to job seekers and to assist employers in hiring practices. It also supports economic development efforts through improving Nevada's workforce.