

Texas Workforce Press Release

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New Online Resource for El Paso Veterans, Transitioning and Active Service members

AUSTIN—Active members of the military and veterans who are considering where to begin their civilian lives can now access a new resource that features the many advantages awaiting veterans who choose to make the Lone Star State their home.

TexasWideOpenForVeterans.com is a newly launched website for veterans and their families with a one-stop opportunity to explore education, employment and lifestyle options and encourages veterans to put down roots in the Lone Star State.



Top photo, pictured from left to right: EPCC VP of Instruction Steve Smith, EPCC President Dr. William Serrata, TWC Commissioner Hope Andrade, Workforce Solutions Borderplex CEO Joyce Wilson, and Workforce Solutions Chair Bertha Gallardo, attend the TexasWideOpenForVeterans.com website demonstration at El Paso Community College on Thursday, March 5.

Bottom photo: TWC Commissioner Hope Andrade addresses the media about the TWC veteran's website

TexasWideOpenForVeterans.com



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The website was promoted at an event at El Paso Community College in collaboration with the Workforce Solutions Borderplex and the Texas Workforce Commission. State, military and community leaders addressed veterans and employers and explored the website, which provides current information about how to connect with jobs and employers in Texas, training and education opportunities for veterans, and connections to a vast array of information about the opportunities for veterans to live, work and play in Texas. The site also features tools for employers to learn about the benefits of hiring veterans and workforce programs that help them to connect to a trained workforce in Texas.

During the event [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC) Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade said, “Our state has so much to offer,” said. “With the highest job growth in the country, there are many opportunities for veterans to find work in a variety of industries in Texas. We believe Texas is the best place to live, work and raise a family and we want to make sure our men and women in uniform know that we’d love for them to make Texas their home.”

Texas is home to more than 1.5 million veterans and [TexasWideOpenForVeterans.com](#) aims to make sure veterans, transitioning and active service members know about all of the high-wage, high-demand opportunities in the Lone Star State. The website is a joint project developed by TWC, the [Texas Veterans Commission](#) (TVC) and [Texas.gov](#) to help veterans access the resources they need, while also touting the benefits for them to choose Texas.

“After serving our country, service members deserve the best prospects in employment and education as they transition into civilian life, and they will find that in Texas,” said Texas Veterans Commission Chair Eliseo ‘Al’ Cantu, Jr. “The commitment the state of Texas has made to our veterans is proven time and again through career, educational and entrepreneur opportunities as well as the programs and services available.”

[TexasWideOpenForVeterans.com](#) also provides resources for employers who would like to connect with veterans for their hiring needs. The site is a tool for Texas employers who are looking to hire from this unique pool of talented, experienced job seekers. Among the many benefits of hiring veterans, the [Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#) allows employers to receive up to a \$9,600 tax credit on federal business income or payroll tax benefits when they hire a qualifying veteran.

Business owner and Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Signorino addressed the advantages of hiring veterans. Owner of Pop-A-Lock of El Paso, 80 percent of Signorino’s employees are also veterans.

"Hiring a Vet is one of the best decisions any business owner can make. They come with built in leadership skills, are highly disciplined, and have unmatched ability to work under pressure," said Signorino.

[Workforce Solutions Borderplex](#) is committed to helping veterans in the community with employment needs and recognized the new website as a great new resource to connect veterans with opportunities in the area. “We encourage employers and veteran service organizations to promote [TexasWideOpenForVeterans.com](#) so veterans and their families can connect with our region,” said CEO of Workforce Solutions Borderplex Joyce Wilson.

El Paso Community College is also a partner in the [Veterans and Industry Partnership](#) (VIP) initiative with TWC. VIP focuses on creating jobs for veterans and supplying a skilled and ready workforce for some of the state’s most high-demand industries: petrochemical, advanced manufacturing and information technology.

“El Paso and El Paso Community College (EPCC) have a long and proud partnership with Fort Bliss and our military. Our partnership dates to the inception of EPCC and our first courses being held at Logan Heights to today as we plan to build our sixth campus which will be located on the Fort Bliss military installation. The Texas Workforce Commission’s vision and leadership to develop and launch the website [texaswideopenforveterans.com](#) provides an outstanding tool to enhance the services that EPCC provides to the nearly 2,000 veterans enrolled every semester,” said Dr. William Serrata, President of El Paso Community College.

This initiative builds upon other veteran-focused TWC programs, such as [VIP](#), the [Texas Veterans Leadership Program](#) (TVLP), the statewide hiring event [Hiring Red, White & You!, Skills for Veterans](#) and priority access for jobs targeting veterans on [WorkInTexas.com](#).

About Texas Workforce Commission

The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.

About Workforce Solutions Borderplex

Workforce Solutions Borderplex is a non-profit organization aimed to help improve the quality of life in a six county region (name counties or say from El Paso east to Presidio). The organization consists of a 25-member Board of Directors responsible for strategic guidance and policy governance to achieve goals focusing on employment, education and economic development. Funding comes from the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Agriculture. For more information about the organization please visit our website at www.urgjobs.com.

Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)

Created in 1927, TVC’s purpose is to act as the state appointed advocate of Texas veterans as they attempt to secure the benefits rightfully earned in exchange for their service in our nation’s armed forces. TVC advocates for and provides service to veterans in the areas of Veteran Employment Services, Veteran Education Services, Claims Representation and Counseling, and Fund for Veteran Assistance grant funding, all to help improve the quality of life for Texas veterans and their families.

Texas.gov

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