

## Cyber-Security Training Program September 2017



In Spring 2017, Workforce Solutions Borderplex obtained a generous \$125,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Neighborhood Lift Program aimed at home ownership assistance and financial education. The grant allowed WSB to develop a robust technology training program and industry recognized certifications for veterans to transition into high-demand IT fields that are emerging in the El Paso region.

Workforce Solutions Borderplex has identified several in-demand IT occupations, specifically those in cyber security, business process automation and software development, and project management, as emerging in the El Paso region. Many employers have a desire to expand into



and/or locate these business segments in the Borderplex region if they can find trained and certified workers to fill or supplement their talent pipeline.

- **18 enrolled in September 2017**
- **15 completed the 12-week program**
- **10 obtained all 5 CompTIA certificates**
- **5 obtained 4 CompTIA certificates**
- **5 obtained immediate employment** (as of 1/18)
- **\$50,927 average salary** (as of 1/18)

WSB partnered with CompTIA in developing the training program which included instruction, books, test preparation and exams for five (5) IT related certifications: IT Fundamentals, A+, Network+, Security+, and CSA+. Also included into the coursework is fourteen (14) models of foundational skills which include "Soft Skills 101", "Developing Your Work Brand", "Communication", "Customer Service", "Reducing Anxiety and Conflict", and more.

CompTIA certifications are internationally recognized certification agency endorsed by Cisco, Microsoft, and other leading technology companies and are highly sought-after credential of IT professionals. This project will enable Workforce Solutions Borderplex to develop a model for a highly effective IT training program that will benefit existing employers and attract future businesses with a pipeline of talented professionals ready to be job placed into the local market.

As a priority population, the training program focused on the training and placement of thirty (30) veterans and/or transitioning service members. The program was purposely structured into two cohorts of 15 students (plus 3 additional to allow for leakage) over a period of 60 days each course.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts there will be 1.4 million more software development jobs than applicants who can fill them by 2020. Research indicates the wages for occupations with these certifications are highly competitive as listed below:

Average salary for Security+ certified professionals+ and other CompTIA certification holders:

- CompTIA A+: \$72,546
- CompTIA Network+: \$74,828
- CompTIA Security+: \$81,467

Based on entry level wages for an A+ certified position, the program projects to deliver a \$2 million return on investment into the local community!

