



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CareerPlace and Executive Network Group Merges Operations with National Able Network, Inc.  
*Both Organizations Help Unemployed, Band Together to Expand Mission Impact***

**CHICAGO (October 2014)** –CareerPlace and Executive Networking Group, a Barrington-based non-profit organization that helps individuals transition into employment, has been acquired by National Able Network, one of the nation’s leading workforce development non-profit organizations. Both organizations share a common mission and service approach which effectively transitions individuals into economic self-sufficiency through a mix of proven career-focused resources that includes best-practice job training, individualized coaching and Job Search Work Teams<sup>1</sup>.

“When we began exploring the possibility of a merger, there was an extraordinary amount of professional admiration from both sides,” said Jim Zalesky, an active volunteer job coach and former CareerPlace Board Secretary, “National Able Network has an excellent reputation for providing quality services and they also give a broader footprint to CareerPlace. We saw these attributes, and many more, as an opportunity to expand the services offered at CareerPlace to help even more individuals in need.”

Zalesky joined the Board of Directors at National Able Network, which will govern the new combined entity. All individuals currently enrolled in programs at either CareerPlace or National Able Network will continue to receive service, uninterrupted, and clients of both agencies will have the added benefit of opting into additional services offered by either organization.

“We see the merger with CareerPlace as an opportunity for National Able Network to broaden our mission and help job seekers build strong economic futures,” said National Able Network’s President and CEO, Grace Powers. “We are thrilled to welcome CareerPlace and Executive Networking Group as a subsidiary of National Able Network and look forward to continuing to help current clients with the support of its Executive Director, Chris Campbell.”

Nonprofit mergers and acquisitions, particularly in Illinois, have increased significantly since 2010. Nonprofits often choose to merge or acquire to improve their service delivery approach or to build fiscal capacity by reducing operational expenses through back-office collaboration. Both National Able Network and CareerPlace were early adopters of these forward-thinking strategies. National Able

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<sup>1</sup> Job Search Work Teams were developed by Orville Pierson author of *Team Up! Find a Better Job Faster with a Job Search Work Team*

Network currently provides back-office support in information technology and fiscal administration for three Chicago-based nonprofit organizations. The organization also uses a social enterprise model for its in-house call center which fields more than 40,000 inbound and outbound calls annually in three languages for a variety of nonprofit partners who serve the region's neediest residents. This is not the first merger for CareerPlace; in 2013 the organization acquired Executive Networking Group, an Arlington Heights-based organization that hosts networking, training, and Job Search Work Teams specifically for senior management and C-level executives.

The chief executives and boards of directors of the two organizations have mutually agreed to make the CareerPlace and Executive Networking Group a subsidiary of National Able Network. Under this arrangement, each organization has retained its legal identity and registration (including FEINs), but will be recognized and governed as one agency by National Able Network's existing Board of Directors. CareerPlace will continue to use the same names and logo, but annotate its subsidiary relationship with National Able Network where appropriate. Chris Campbell will remain the Executive Director of the CareerPlace and also participate as a member of the National Able Network leadership team.

#### **About National Able Network**

National Able Network, Inc. is a leading non-profit organization specializing in providing career counseling, training, and placement services for disadvantaged job seekers of all ages and skill levels. By designing programs that are mission-driven and results-oriented, National Able Network is a leader in implementing workforce development strategies that strengthen local and national economies of scale. To that end, for every \$1 invested in a National Able Network client, \$5.95 is contributed back into the economy. National Able Network's services for job seekers includes individualized short- and long-term career planning, nationally-recognized Job Readiness Training, access to wraparound services to meet basic needs, connections to post-secondary education and training, and job placement assistance. Each year, National Able Network provides career services to more than 125,000 individuals in Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

#### **About the CareerPlace and Executive Networking Group**

CareerPlace is a non-profit organization based in Barrington with 385 members that utilizes more than 30 volunteers to assist unemployed individuals with job search skills, strategies, and support through a structured program of curriculum, coaching and connections. The Executive Network Group is based in Arlington Heights and is targeted toward senior management and C-level executives in transition. Combined, the two organizations assist more than 1,100 individuals from 45 different townships and 80 communities annually.

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