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National Able Network President & CEO to Retire in Early 2018
Grace Powers, President & CEO, has led the organization for 15 years

CHICAGO (October 2017) - Grace Powers, President & CEO of leading workforce development nonprofit, National Able Network, will retire in March 2018 after 15 years. Ms. Powers took over the role as chief executive from the organization's founder.

During her tenure, Ms. Powers grew National Able Network from a small Chicago-based organization with an annual budget of less than \$5 million on the brink of insolvency to a thriving \$22+ million organization serving tens of thousands of job seekers and hundreds of businesses across the Midwest and East Coast.

Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Powers developed the organization's fiscal and operational infrastructure, expanded programs and services, and built Illinois' largest and most comprehensive workforce center in Chicago's Pilsen community. The success of these efforts can be attributed to Ms. Powers' approach to achieving the organization's mission. "Many things change over time, some of which we can predict and others that we cannot, but our organization's culture of hard work and core values of integrity and compassion are what always prevail when times are difficult," Ms. Powers said. It is National Able Network's pervasive culture and commitment to service excellence that she says will be her legacy.

Under her leadership, National Able Network has solidified its position as a leading advocate for unemployed and underemployed job seekers, mature workers, and military veterans. Working collaboratively with community partners is one of the strategies Ms. Powers has employed to develop innovative solutions to systemic challenges. "We are not going to compete. We are going to solve the problem with the help of our partners," Ms. Powers says.

These strong community partnerships, as well as the organization's thriving fiscal, information technology, real estate, and strategic planning infrastructure led the organization into a new approach to mission fulfillment: helping other nonprofit organizations achieve greater efficiency with back-office support from National Able Network. Through these offerings, National Able Network serves as a fiscal agent, information technology support, landlord, and advisor to dozens of nonprofit partners throughout the greater Chicagoland area.

Ms. Powers is also a military veteran with nine years of service as a United States Air Force officer. This experience helped the organization develop its highly successful military-to-civilian career transition program, Veterans Forward. Ms. Powers' successor, Bridget Altenburg, National Able Network's Chief Operating Officer, is also a military veteran who served in the United States Army. National Able Network celebrated its 40th year of operation in 2017.

At National Able Network, our mission is to help make careers happen. Each client receives personalized career supports that integrate career coaching, specialized training, and direct connections to the job market. Our programs are designed to assist jobseekers from all backgrounds, including the unemployed, career changers, military veterans, seniors, and aspiring IT professionals. Each year, National Able Network provides service to nearly 76,000 individuals in Delaware, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Nebraska.

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