

NEWS RELEASE

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IBM EXPANDS NEW COLLAR TECH CAREER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WEST VIRGINIA AND APPALACHIAN REGION MILITARY VETERANS

CAMP DAWSON, WV –23 March 2018: Building on IBM's commitment to hire 2,000 veterans in the United States over the next four years, several organizations are collaborating to offer "new collar" technical training, certification and job placement assistance to veterans in West Virginia.

Leaders from IBM and [Corporate America Supports You \(CASYS\)](#) joined forces this week as part of a free nationwide training initiative that trains and certifies veterans in the use of IBM software widely used by law enforcement, cybersecurity, and national security agencies. Commercial banking and insurance companies also use this software to investigate fraud or other criminal activity. [CASYS](#) is a national non-profit that specializes in job placement assistance for veterans.

With the evolving nature of technology, IBM is creating new paths for military veterans to learn the skills necessary for the New-Collar jobs of tomorrow," said Timi Hadra, IBM West Virginia Senior State Executive. "This public/private partnership with [CASYS](#) is one example, and as a West Virginia employer, we are proud to lead this partnership to provide training opportunities for our veterans.

This training is part of a veteran's initiative launched by IBM and [CASYS](#) to help local veterans translate their military experience into high-skilled jobs. The Veteran Employment Accelerator Grant program provides returning service members with hands-on training, certification, and job placement assistance in the fast-growing tech sector. The free week-long training and certification course incorporates IBM's industry leading QRadar software. Hundreds of veterans will participate across the nation this year.

"IBM continues to invest in our state, especially our veterans, to bring about the innovative developments and advancements that they are known for," said U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV). "They know that our veterans have the talents, the skills, and the total dedication that today's employers demand. Certification in this software will give them the foundation they need to land promising new career opportunities. I've been honored to work for years to bring developing industries and high-tech jobs and opportunities to West Virginia and to help veterans find new meaningful careers in growing industries. I thank IBM, [CASYS](#) and all involved who have made this possible."

"The 21st century economy is creating opportunities for careers in fields that are critical to our economy—like cybersecurity—and training partnerships like this will go a long way in developing a workforce that is ready to meet the growing jobs demand," U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) said. "I appreciate IBM for partnering in this effort and for their awareness of the incredible work ethic and talent of West Virginians. The Appalachian region is primed for 'new collar' partnerships to bring more technology jobs to the region, and I look forward to continuing to work together to grow the technology sector in West Virginia."

"This partnership between IBM and [CASYS](#) will equip our veterans for the expanding high-tech sector in our state. With NOAA expanding their operations in Fairmont and the Department of Commerce looking to locate their cybersecurity operations to the state, these skills are in increasing demand," said Congressman David McKinley (R-WV). "Our veterans have served their country with honor and dedication. This program will help them enter the civilian workforce and fill these high-paying jobs when they return home."

A widening gap exists between available, qualified, cybersecurity professionals and unfilled positions. This gap is expected to leave 1.8 million jobs unfilled by 2022. Programs designed to build in-demand technology skills are needed to prepare veterans for “new collar” careers -- skilled positions, such as data and cybersecurity analysts, positions that require specific skills but not necessarily a four-year degree.

“We’re very honored and excited to partner with IBM on the QRadar training and certification program”, said Stacey Cummings, [Corporate American Supports You](#). “Through this training, veterans hone their skills and secure a certification that is linked to in-demand skilled jobs. The program provides qualifications needed to help transition these individuals into remarkable opportunities that are a fit for their overall experience, skills, and needs. Thank you to IBM for providing this opportunity and for supporting our veteran community.”

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