

News Desk



CONTINUING TO LEAD



VetConnexx is led by CEO Larry Ellis, a retired four-star general and a service-disabled veteran. He served more than 35 years of active duty, including overseas tours in Europe and the Pacific before retiring in 2004 as the commander of U.S. Army Forces Command.

Supporting the Veterans

With a new customer service contact center, VetConnexx to bring more than 300 jobs to county

VetConnexx will bring more than 300 jobs to Gwinnett County with the opening of its customer service contact center this winter. The company specializes in customer service for *Fortune* 500 companies, while also providing veterans and their immediate families with post-deployment jobs.

"VetConnexx's decision to open its new facility in Gwinnett is a testament to our business-friendly community," says Gwinnett County Board of Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash. "We are committed to creating an ideal location for companies

looking to grow and thrive."

The Duluth facility positions VetConnexx within the Greater Gwinnett Place Opportunity Zone (OZ). Designed to foster job growth and revitalization, OZs are intended to assist areas with a strong economic base, yet in need of redevelopment, by providing tax incentives to generate the creation of new jobs. An OZ allows businesses located within its boundaries to enjoy the waiver and abatement or exemption of certain taxes, while promoting additional investment into the community.

For more information on VetConnexx,
visit www.vetconnexx.com

HeadLines

Yerkes Research Center Receives Four-Year, \$3.3 Million Grant to Study Financial Genomics of HIV Infection

The Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University, has received a four-year, \$3.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study HIV infection at the level of the genome. The goal of this new genomics project is to identify the genes responsible for causing disease in humans and those that are protective in African species of monkeys that are AIDS-resistant.

HIV and its monkey counterpart, Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV), leads to AIDS-like disease in infected people and rhesus macaques. However, some African species of monkeys, such as the sooty mangabey and African green monkey, remain disease-free even when infected with virtually identical strains of the SIV virus.

"We hope to find differences in gene regulation between models of infection that develop AIDS compared to those that are resistant to disease" says Steven Bosinger, Co-Director of the Yerkes Nonhuman Primate Genomics Core Laboratory and a co-investigator on the study. "We also hope to uncover genes driving disease in HIV-infected patients on medication."

Current HIV medications suppress the virus, but don't treat the residual inflammation that causes disease. By studying multiple species, it helps narrow down which genes are responsible for the disease process, rather than simply being different due to interspecies variation. With this information, they want to identify potential targets for developing therapy to treat residual HIV disease directly.

The mission of the Yerkes National Primate Research Center Nonhuman Primate Genomics Core (GenCore) is to provide researchers in the Emory community with access to cutting-edge, high-throughput genomic technologies,

including Illumina Next Generation sequencing and microarray, and provide support for bioinformatics and analysis of genomic data. Projects in the GenCore laboratory include transcriptomic profiling of several pre-clinical vaccine candidates, expression monitoring of clinical trials samples undergoing novel anti-HIV therapies and RNAseq in humans and several NHP species.

VetConnexx Announces Location in Greater Gwinnett Place Opportunity Zone

VetConnexx, in partnership with Gwinnett Chamber Economic Development, announced it will bring more than 300 jobs to Gwinnett County, metro Atlanta with the opening of its Customer Service Contact Center. The site positions VetConnexx within the Greater Gwinnett Place Opportunity Zone, the County's newest incentive zone in the Gwinnett Place area.

"Creative companies such as VetConnexx lay the foundation for tomorrow's IT infrastructure," said Chris Carr, commissioner at Georgia Department of Economic Development. "VetConnexx shares the state's same commitment to providing jobs for Georgians, especially for those who have served our country, and Georgia's skilled workforce and business-friendly climate will only help this company grow."

Located at 3100 Breckenridge Blvd., Suite 200, the 30,987-square-foot facility is designed for 300 agents and equipped to house more than 500 people. VetConnexx specializes in providing customer service for

Fortune 500 companies, while also providing veterans and their immediate families with post-deployment jobs.

Company co-founder and CEO, Larry Ellis, stated, "We are excited to announce Gwinnett County as the home of our third location in the VetConnexx service offering. We believe this is a thriving community that will enable us to continue providing jobs for veterans, as well as offering excellent support services to our clients."

"We celebrate the addition of VetConnexx to Gwinnett County and the hundreds of jobs it will bring to families in the area," stated Gwinnett County Board of Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash.

"VetConnexx's decision to open its new facility in Gwinnett is a testament to our business friendly community. We are committed to creating an ideal location for companies looking to grow and thrive."

"Since receiving designation in late 2012, the Greater Gwinnett Place Opportunity Zone

has proven to be an effective tool for bringing and growing new business in the County," stated Joe Allen, Executive Director of the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District. "We are looking forward

to having VetConnexx join our business community and to supporting its development moving forward"

"By working in close partnership with the Gwinnett Chamber Economic Development team and the Gwinnett Place CID, we were able to tout the many benefits of the newly established opportunity zone and count VetConnexx as a great addition to the area."

