



**For Immediate Release**

## **Canine Companions for Independence Northeast Region Announces New Leadership**

*Austin & Williams President Eva LaMere Joins Advisory Board*

**HAUPPAUGE, NY – March 15, 2016** – Canine Companions for Independence, the nation’s oldest and largest assistance dog organization serving people with physical disabilities, is pleased to announce Austin & Williams President Eva LaMere is joining the nonprofit’s Northeast Region advisory board.

“I’m truly excited to make meaningful contributions and support Canine Companions’ mission of providing highly trained assistance dogs to children, adults and veterans with disabilities,” said LaMere.

As president of Hauppauge-based Austin & Williams marketing agency, LaMere is responsible for leading the company’s day-to-day operations, including directing brand strategy for key accounts, developing and fostering talent, and driving business growth initiatives.

Since taking over the agency’s reins in September 2014, Eva has helped spearhead A&W’s unprecedented fourfold growth, building a roster of 50 accounts across nine states.

Eva is credited with bringing many “firsts” to A&W that transformed both its capabilities and culture: from adding such services as web design and development, digital marketing and in-house photography and videography, to introducing Jesse, the agency’s first (of many) four-legged “employees.”

Eva also donates her time and the agency’s talent to several local nonprofits. She and her husband have five grown daughters and two dogs.

### **About Austin & Williams**

Austin & Williams is an outcomes-driven marketing agency headquartered in Hauppauge, Long Island, New York. Specializing in the healthcare, higher education, and financial services industries, the agency provides a full range of branding, advertising and digital marketing services to help clients achieve their desired outcome. For more information, visit [austin-williams.com](http://austin-williams.com).

**About Canine Companions for Independence:** Canine Companions for Independence is the largest non-profit provider of trained assistance dogs with six regional training centers across the country, including California, Florida, Ohio, New York and Texas, and has placed nearly 5,000 assistance dogs. Established in 1975, Canine Companions provides highly trained assistance dogs to children, adults and veterans with disabilities and is recognized worldwide for the excellence of



its dogs, and the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between people and dogs. There is no charge for the dog, its training and ongoing follow-up services. For more information, visit [www.cci.org](http://www.cci.org) or call 1-800-572-BARK.

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