



For Media Inquiries

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BAC Board of Directors and Board Chair Patricia Tellechea Champion New Strategic Plan Focused on Expanding Youth Programs

Brevard, FL — The Board and staff of BAC has unveiled its new FY25-27 Strategic Plan, which includes several key initiatives designed to expand access to critical employment and training options for people with disabilities. Of particular importance to students across Brevard, the plan specifically prioritizes expanding youth-focused initiatives, including Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLEs), Practical Applications of Career Exploration (PACE), and LaunchIT Youth programs.

Patricia Tellechea, Board Chair of Brevard Achievement Center (BAC) and President of GIMEX USA, expressed her enthusiasm for BAC's mission and this enhanced strategic direction for youth. "Each program is crafted to empower young individuals with the skills, experiences, and insights needed to confidently transition from education to fulfilling, meaningful careers," Tellechea shared.

Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLEs): Hands-On Career Exploration for Youth

BAC is thrilled to provide hands-on, paid learning opportunities for youth aged 14-21 through the WBLE program. In partnership with industry leaders like Delaware North at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Brevard Zoo and other local businesses.

WBLEs offer invaluable exposure to key employment areas: Administrative/Data Entry, Hospitality, Assembly/Production, Instructional Aide, and Animal Care. Participants gain real-world insights that are essential for future career readiness. Students are encouraged to participate in multiple WBLEs throughout high school to build their knowledge and confidence prior to entering the workforce.

Interested businesses are encouraged to partner with BAC to support the growth of this critical program. By participating, companies have a direct impact on shaping the future workforce while gaining enthusiastic, hardworking interns who bring new perspectives and a commitment to learning.

To be eligible for a WBLE, students must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan and be referred by their Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselor. For more details or to discuss potential partnerships, contact Donald Samuels at 321.632.8610 ext. 234 or via email at dsamuels@bacemploy.com.



PACE: Preparing High School Students for the Workforce

BAC's Practical Applications of Career Exploration (PACE) program helps Brevard Public School students in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) discover and develop their talents. Throughout the school year, PACE Coordinators work with educators and local businesses to facilitate career exploration, resume building, interview preparation, and soft skills development.

The PACE program plays a significant role in helping students make informed career decisions, preparing them for the workforce and life beyond graduation. This critical program is offered in partnership with Brevard Public Schools and is open to ESE students in grades 10-12 through their Learning Strategies classes.

LaunchIT Youth: Fostering Future Innovators in IT

In a bold new addition to its youth services, BAC has expanded its LaunchIT program to offer a Youth component. The LaunchIT Youth program is 100% virtual with live instruction and is open to all students throughout the state. In partnership with Codecraft Works, the LaunchIT Youth program includes the innovative Click IT track. This state-funded program empowers high school students with practical, tech-based skills in a supportive, hands-on learning environment. The LaunchIT Youth program offers students a unique opportunity to learn coding, IT fundamentals, and digital skills essential for the modern workforce.

"BAC and Codecraft Works are excited to offer this new LaunchIT Youth training program," said Robert Gramolini, BAC's Vice President of Employment Transition Services. "Empowering young minds with the tools of technology today builds the innovators and leaders of tomorrow. In the world of IT, every keystroke is a step toward shaping the future."

LaunchIT's Youth program is free for all eligible students enrolled in school aged 14-21 who have an IEP or a 504 plan. Students are not required to be affiliated with Florida Vocational Rehabilitation. This program is available for students throughout the state of Florida that meet the criteria. For more information, visit www.bacemploy.com/LaunchIT or contact Sue Bassett at 321.446.3539 or via email at sbassett@bacemploy.com.

"As BAC launches its ambitious three-year strategic plan, I am incredibly excited to be part of the expanded youth programs that will open doors and create lifelong opportunities for the young people we serve," stated Tellechea. "These programs not only prepare our youth for meaningful careers but also empower them to envision a future filled with possibility and purpose. The impact will be transformative, building a stronger, more inclusive community that thrives on the unique talents and potential of every individual."

About BAC



BAC is a social enterprise dedicated to building communities that support members of unique abilities in growing their personal success. BAC serves more than 4,000 individuals with disabilities each year through innovative services and employment opportunities across its various programs. It is the largest employer of individuals with disabilities in Brevard County and among the 25th largest AbilityOne producing agencies in the national set-aside program providing contracted services to our federal government.

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