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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brevard Achievement Center's New Industry Readiness Training (IRT) Program Receives Over \$65,000 PNC Grant and "Dinner in the Dark" event jumpstart funding for program

Rockledge, Fla. – [Brevard Achievement Center](#) (BAC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency whose mission is to provide persons with disabilities innovative services and opportunities to achieve personal success, is proud to announce that it's new Industry Readiness Training (IRT) program recently received a \$5,000 grant from the PNC Foundation and \$60,500 in cash sponsorships from its inaugural "Dinner in the Dark" event. The IRT is the first program of its kind in the southeast.

BAC's IRT program was completely designed by BAC staff to give individuals with significant disabilities an opportunity to obtain and sustain employment at the highest level achievable. The program will focus on structured, in-house skills training in high-need industries like hospitality, retail, food service and manufacturing. To ensure participants receive the right training to become more marketable in the workforce, an advisory council consisting of leaders in these industries was formed. The council consists of: Cheryl Cost, CareerSource-Brevard; Tom Charland, Harris, Inc.; Scott Ellis, Clerk of the Court; Puneet Kapur (PK), Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Palm Bay; and, Mike Klenotich, Winn Dixie-West Melbourne.

"Although a client in our day program has more significant disabilities, he or she might have the potential to work in the community with the right training," said Robert Gramolini vice president of Employment Services. "Thus, the focus of the IRT program is to provide in-house job skills training to those with more significant disabilities to give them a better chance of being able to transition into community employment."

Donated funds will be used to purchase curriculum, as well as materials and equipment to build in-house simulated work "pods." These miniature work stations will mimic the actual workplace setting of one of the IRT program's focus industries. A work pod for the hospitality industry will simulate an actual hotel room, for example.

BAC wishes to not only thank the PNC Foundation and the "Dinner in the Dark" event's Presenting Sponsor, Southern Janitor for their generosity, but also its other many event sponsors: ADI Contracting, American Maintenance, Artemis; Badolato's Family Health; BB&T-J. Rolfe Davis; Bellus Insurance; Carr, Riggs & Ingram; Copytronics; Deininger Benefits Advisors; Florida Eye; Rhoda Fisher; Ford & Harrison; FPL; Arthur J. Gallagher and Co.; Health First; Intercoastal Insurance; Deborah Kearney, DDS; Christine Lance; Las Olas Chemist; Bob and Kathy Lowe; McKesson; Marketing World; Miller Construction; Schlenker Automotive; Martha Sinclair; Southeast Petro; Summit; SunTrust; The Boon Group; The Viera Company; Michael Welch and Casey Whelan; and Wuesthoff Health System.

To learn more about the IRT program, contact Gramolini at rgramolini@bacbrevard.com or (321) 632-8610, ext. 228. Information about BAC's other programs and services can be found at bacbrevard.com.

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