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**BAC Receives \$343,000 from the State for Industry Readiness Training Program
*Job preparedness program for people with disabilities is first of its kind in the southeast***

Rockledge, Fla. – [Brevard Achievement Center](#) (BAC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides innovative services and opportunities to assist people with disabilities achieve personal success, was allocated \$343,000 in special project funding from the state for the agency’s newest program, the Industry Readiness Training (IRT) program, designed to meet federal requirements for persons with disabilities under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA was signed into law by President Barack Obama on July 22, 2014 with final rulings issued on June 30, 2016.

Under WIOA, individuals with disabilities are to have greater access to support services that will better prepare them for competitive integrated employment. BAC’s IRT program provides in-house multi-disciplinary training to teach persons with disabilities key job skills in high-demand industries. To ensure that all training tools and processes meet or exceed industry standards, an Industry Advisory Council (IAC) consisting of key community leaders was formed. Members of the IAC to date are: Joe Baker, Beef O’Brady’s – Melbourne; Thomas Charland, Harris, Inc.; Sheryl Cost, CareerSource Brevard; Scott Ellis, Brevard County Clerk of Courts; Puneet Kapur, Holiday Inn Express & Suites – Palm Bay; Mike Klenotich, Winn Dixie – Palm Bay; Mark Phillips, Five Guys Burgers and Fries – Merritt Island; Dr. Laura Sidoran, Eastern Florida State College.

“The IRT program is the first of its kind in the southeast as far as our research shows,” said Mike Murphy, IRT program administrator. “We’re also aware that over the next year the program is going to be closely watched by state legislators as a possible model for other Florida agencies like outs to adapt. The state’s funding, combined with proceeds from this year’s Dinner in the Dark fundraiser, are going to allow us to really take the program to the next level.”

Equipment and materials to create specific work labs where job skills can be taught are one way the state’s funding will be used. Proceeds from BAC’s 2nd annual “Dinner in the Dark” fundraiser also will support the program. The event will be held on Saturday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the King Center’s Studio Theatre. The Green Turtle Market will cater. Sponsorships and individual reservations are still available. To learn more about the IRT program or make “Dinner in the Dark” reservations, visit [bacbrevard.com/bacevents](#) or call Roz Weiss, director of marketing and development, at (321) 632-8610, ext. 203.

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