FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The LaunchIT program announces it's new graduating cohort of professionals ready to work!

LaunchIT announces its latest graduation cohort, the SourceAmerica cohort, with 19 participants and concluded on February 24, 2022 with a virtual graduation ceremony.

A partnership of BAC and Codecraft Works, LaunchIT combines Codecraft Work's STEM-based, blended learning approach with BAC's wraparound services and experience in serving people with unique abilities to provide solutions to two workplace challenges: filling entry-level Information Technology (IT) positions and increasing employment opportunities for people with unique abilities.

The LaunchIT training is conducted via virtual platforms that are accessible to those with unique abilities, including those with visual impairments or who are deaf or hard of hearing. This six-month program is designed for veterans or adults with unique abilities over age 18 who have an interest in a career in the IT industry.

For this cohort, SourceAmerica selected 5 nonprofit agencies (NPA's) from around the country to participate in the LaunchIT training program. Each NPA selected candidates from California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia. to attend the virtual programming.

SourceAmerica connects government and corporate customers to a national network of nonprofit agencies that employ a talented segment of the workforce, individuals with disabilities. SourceAmerica required that each of the 5 participating NPA's must also include at least one military veteran to participate.

James Barlow, a veteran sponsored by BAC, completed the "IT Services Specialist" track, and will exit the program with multiple certifications, including the CompTIA A+ Certification, an industry requirement for many in the IT field.

When asked what LaunchIT has helped him most with, James replied, "LaunchIT means everything to me, it is a chance at a better way of life. I am eternally grateful for everything I've gained while in this program".

The program offers two technical certification tracks designed to build the soft skills needed for workforce readiness in careers such as web development, accessibility specialists, IT support technicians and help desk specialists.

"Ever since joining the LaunchIT program last August I learned many tricks and tips in the art of computer programming and digital architecture of the World Wide Web that I never knew before or believed was possible." stated BAC employee and new graduate, Augusta Williams, III. "This program has been a real eye-opener for me."

Augusta completed the "Web Development & Accessibility Specialist" training track and will conclude his training with certifications including the Google UX Design Professional Certification. He is also a candidate for the IAAP Web Accessibility Specialist certification.

Potential candidates should have an interest in a career in the IT industry, basic computer experience, and the problem-solving capacity to develop skills, knowledge, and workplace readiness. Because the course work is 100% virtual, applications are open to individuals located anywhere in the United States. All candidates are expected to pass a competency assessment to determine their ability to work at the required levels of proficiency in math, communication, and social skill to be successful within the context of the program. Visit www.bacemploy.com/launchit/ to learn more.

Florida Vocational Rehabilitation Participants welcome to apply! Discuss this training opportunity with your VR Counselor!

Program training fee assistance available for individuals with disabilities who have financial need and do not qualify for other Employment Support Services. Contact Sue Bassett at 321.632.8610 ext.265 or sbassett@bacemploy.com for further info.

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