

What's happening in Central Jersey: March 27 and later

Brad Wadlow, @BradWadlowMyCJ 6:23 p.m. EDT April 5, 2016



(Photo: ~Photo courtesy Rotary Club of Branchburg)

BRANCHBURG

Achievement Center is now enrolling

The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College is now enrolling for fall 2016.

Piloted last September, the transitional post-secondary program is a collaboration between The Arc of Somerset County, the Branchburg-based Raritan Valley Community College, and The Arc of Hunterdon County. The Achievement Center provides students with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to participate in a college experience at Raritan Valley Community College while receiving individual support and specialized classes.

The Arc of Somerset County's Executive Director Lauren Panarella believes the center aims to impact the unemployment rate experienced by those with disabilities by focusing on job readiness and career planning along with academics and campus engagement. "In the past, college has been largely unavailable for students with intellectual disabilities. These students should have the option to attend a college program if they so desire, just like anyone else who graduates high school, it's a matter of choice and access," Panarella said in a prepared statement.

Families interested in registration should note that the admission process is comprised of a formal application and an interview. Prospective students are invited to discuss their academic and social abilities to be accepted into the three year program.

The program is not limited to residents of Somerset County and Hunterdon County.

READ: [More about the Achievement Center \(/story/news/education/2016/02/01/achievement-center-strives-equal-opportunity/79097992/\)](http://www.raritanvalley.edu/news/education/2016/02/01/achievement-center-strives-equal-opportunity/79097992/)

For more information, call the Curriculum Coordinator, Chris Corvino at 908-725-8544, or visit www.thearcofsomerset.org (<http://www.thearcofsomerset.org>) and click on programs, scroll down to The Achievement Center.