

# Quest

Newsletter of Industrial Opportunities, Inc.

## Tri-County honors exceptional IOI students

Samantha Sinclair  
 Instead of working on the floor measuring straps and bundling them, Mary Laura Bandy put on a farmer hat and spent Friday afternoon dancing and playing air drums. She was one of 53 workers at Industrial Opportunities, Inc. who earned certificates for their studies over the year with Tri-County Community College. Through the program, students are taught through contextualized learning. Each year, classes are based on a theme, which gives the students real-life applications to what they are learning. Those enrolled in the program take classes for about 90 minutes each day while at work. "It is a great service to IOI,"

IOI President Tom O'Brien said. Dottie Stafford-Ortega, the college's Director of College and Career Readiness and Human Resources Development, said others across the state are looking at the partnership for inspiration. "The instructors are creating fun, exciting and educational classes," she said. This year, the theme was Farmville. They learned about gardening and even hatched chickens. As part of their awards celebration, several students dressed up as farmers or farm animals and performed to parodies of popular songs, like "Farmer Style" for "Gangnam Style" and "Taking Care of Live-stock" for "Taking Care of

Business." One student, Chad Phillips, said he already applied what he learned at home. He said he has a garden, where he has grown melons, cucumbers, radishes and potatoes. The classes keep him on his toes. "I really like them," he said. Students may stay in the program as many years as they'd like. In fact, Bandy said she had been taking the classes for about 12 years. Stafford-Ortega encouraged continuing education in her speech to students, taking inspiration from Dr. Seuss' book I Can Read With My Eyes Shut. "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go," she quoted,

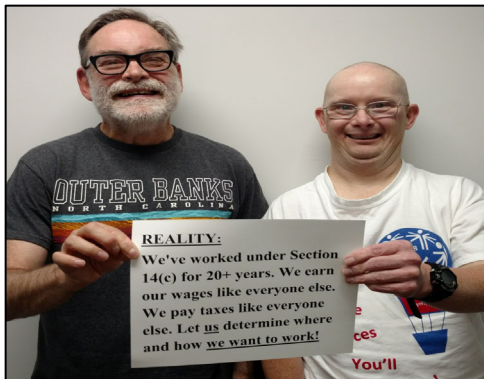


adding that the program was giving them this opportunity. "Keep reading. Keep learning." The adult basic education programs at IOI were started in 1974 by Ida Timpson, the college's director of adult basic education. She passed away in May, and Friday's celebration was dedicated to her. "She was one of our strongest advocates over the years," O'Brien said.

## Do No Harm!

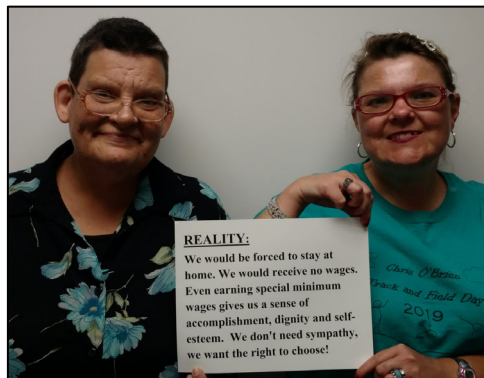
### ASSUMPTION:

Vocational training programs have no value and are not true employment.



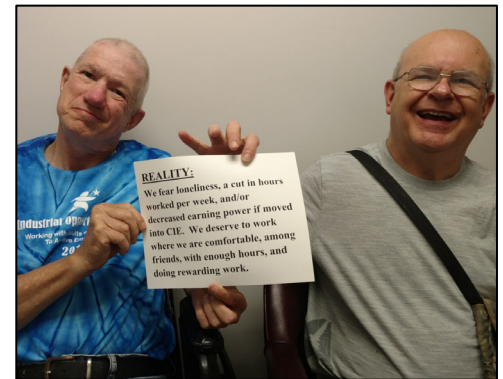
### ASSUMPTION:

If vocational programs are eliminated, people with disabilities will not lose their opportunity to work because employers will "do the right thing" and hire people with disabilities out of the goodness of their hearts.



### ASSUMPTION:

Every person with a disability wants to work in Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE).



## Please take Section 6 out of the Raise the Wage Act!

Section 6 - 14(c) Special Minimum Wage - allows employers to pay me on my productivity. The loss of 14(c) would result in thousands of people with disabilities losing their jobs!

### How can you help? Call / E-mail

Senator Richard Burr • Senator Thom Tillis • Congressman Mark Meadows  
 202-224-3154 / 800-685-8916 • 202-224-6342 / 919-856-4630 • 202-225-6401 / 828-693-5660

Thank you!







## In Memory...

**Beatrice Faye Chastain**, 49, of Murphy, passed away Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019, in an Andrews care facility.

She was a native and lifetime resident of Murphy. She worked at Industrial Opportunities, Inc. for more than 25 years. Beatrice loved her cats and dogs, and she enjoyed coloring. Beatrice loved people and had a hug for everyone she encountered.

She was of the Baptist faith.

She was the daughter of the late Olen Lake and Lorain Sutton Chastain. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Danny Chastain and Narvil Chastain; and two half sisters, Marilyn Wallace and Tammy Burnett. Surviving are three sisters, Patricia Ashe and husband Wayne of Murphy, Diane Owl of Marble and Mary Ann Measmer and husband Gene of Murphy; four brothers, Olen Doug "Bondo" Chastain and wife Marie and Arvil



Chastain and wife Alva, all of Murphy, Avery Chastain of Blairsville, Ga., and Olin Lake Chastain and wife Becky of Buford, Ga.; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28, in the chapel of Ivie Funeral Home, Murphy, with the Rev. Darrell Dockery officiating. Music was provided by the Smoky Mountain Singers. The interment was in the Peachtree Community Cemetery. Pallbearers were Darryl and Barry Kephart, Dennis and Carroll "Brother" Ashe, Chris Watts and Tommy Dockery. Tim Shook served as honorary pallbearer.

The family received friends from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Ivie Funeral Home, Murphy.

Ivie Funeral Home, Murphy, was in charge of all arrangements.

**Leon Tatham** age 71 of Murphy, NC passed away Wednesday, August 14, 2019.

He was a native and lifelong resident of Cherokee County, and the son of the late Charles and Daisy Grant Tatham. Leon was a US Navy veteran and served one tour in Vietnam. He retired from active duty with the North Carolina National Guard 210th Military Police in 2008. He continued his involvement with military services through membership in The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve receiving numerous awards for his volunteer services. He was an active member of the Military Officers Association of America. Leon received his Bachelor's degree in Special Education from Western Carolina University. As an advocate for people with developmental disabilities, he served as Chairman of the Board of Industrial Opportunities Incorporated from 1992-2001. He began his career at Tri-County Community College serving in Veteran's affairs and later as Dean of Instruction. He received his Master's degree in Human Resources Management from Clemson University. He worked for Outboard Marine Corporation as a Human Resources Manager. Leon was dedicated to the improvement of his community and the education of its citizens. He was a member of multiple civic organizations and received a Governor's Award for Volunteer services in 1995 and 1999.

He is survived by his wife, Treacy Tatham; one son, Lee Tatham; three step-sons; Sam Duncan and wife Karen; Jim Duncan and wife Andria; and Michael Duncan; one daughter, Leslie Wheeler and husband Allen; two brothers, Gary Tatham and wife Margaret and Dickey Tatham and wife Tutti; four grandchildren, three nephews, and one niece.

Funeral services were held at 3 pm, Sunday, August 18, 2019 at the Townson-Rose Funeral Home Chapel in Murphy. Rev. Jerry Tatham officiated. Burial was in the Greenlawn Memorial Gardens with military gravesite rites conducted by the US Army Fort Bragg. Pallbearers were US Army Fort Bragg, Jim Duncan, Sam Duncan, Michael Duncan, Seth Wheeler, Hayden Duncan, and Harrison Duncan. Honorary pallbearers were Lynn Roper and Dana Jones.

The family received friends from 1-3 pm, Sunday, August 18, 2019 at the Townson-Rose Funeral Home. Townson-Rose Funeral Home was in charge of all arrangements.



## Mission Statement

We believe that individuals have a right to economic opportunity and personal development. The Board of Directors and staff actively incorporate the concept that through meaningful, satisfying work, people are able to live more independently, successfully, and productively. We believe that every individual has the right to respect, equal opportunity and gainful employment.

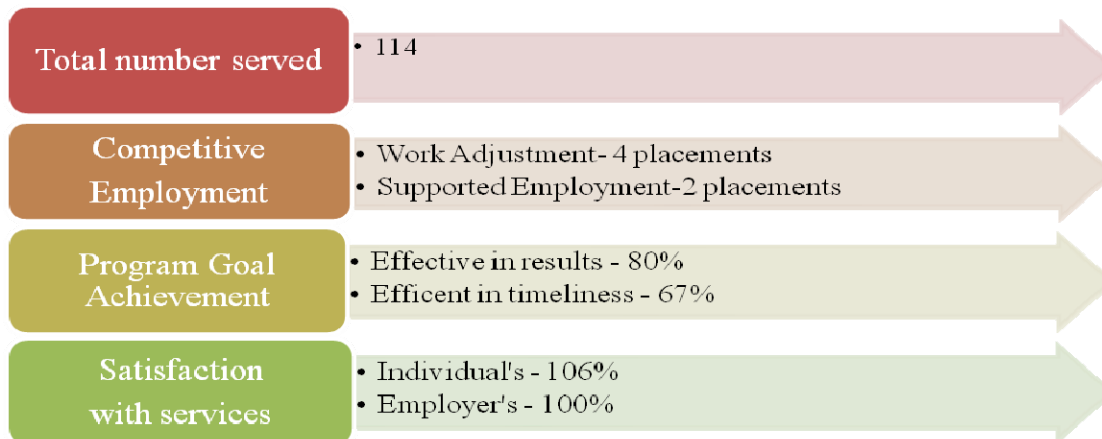
## Quest Fellowship

- Patricia Slagle
- Phil & Virginia Mattox
- St. William Catholic Church
- Nantahala Bank
- Entegra Bank
- Charles & Nicole Hibbs - PNC Bank
- First Citizens Bank
- Rashid & Sabiha Khan
- John & Carol Campbell
- Daniel Sifferlin
- Dean Baughn
- Dwight Dickinson
- Kathleen Roberts
- Benefits Solutions
- Mountain Credit Union

## Supporters

- In memory of Conner Sheridan by Peg & Ken Isidor
- In memory of D. Joseph O'Connor by Jill Kelly
- In memory of Chris & Susan O'Brien, William O'Brien, Shirley O'Brien, Kathy O'Brien Pruzensky & Judy O'Brien Sheridan by Tom O'Brien
- In memory of Leon Tatham by Phil & Virginia Mattox
- In memory of Doug & Maxine Earley by Sue Baldwin
- In memory of Judy O'Brien Sheridan by Tom Sheridan
- In memory of Susan & Chris O'Brien by Chris & Mary Jane Galvin
- In honor of Tom O'Brien's decades of service by Chuck & Eileen Garven
- In memory of Chris O'Brien by Mark & Susanne Parker
- In honor of the many years of service to the communities & best wishes for continuation of the programs by George Heilner
- In memory of Chris & Susan O'Brien by Tom O'Brien

## Rehabilitation Programs Overview FY 2018/2019



The complete Outcomes Measurements/Program Evaluation is available at IOI for your review.

## 2019 Chris O'Brien Advocacy Award Recipient



The North Carolina Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (NCARF) held its annual conference and awards luncheon in Cary, NC on September 12, 2019. Each year, nominations from all member programs across the state are submitted in several categories. These categories

range from advocacy to innovative program to vocational achievement. Patricia Little, JCI Executive Vice President, received the Chris O'Brien Advocacy Award. This award is a community inclusion award and is given to someone who goes above and beyond to ensure that an individual or individuals with special needs are included in the community to the fullest extent to their ability. This award is named in memory, Christopher Thomas O'Brien, whom Tom O'Brien (his father) said continues to be a great inspiration in his life.

## Annual Cherokee County Chamber Awards



This year marks the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This was a landmark piece of legislation that was directed at establishing and preserving the rights of and advocating for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in every aspect of society, not just employment. October is designated as Disability Employment Awareness Month. 2019 also marks the 29<sup>th</sup> year of the Disability Employment Awareness Awards being presented as a part of the Chamber's annual dinner. The theme for this year's celebration is "The Right Talent, Right Now". These awards recognize people who refuse to be defined by a disability and also businesses, who recognize that having a disability does not diminish the value and contribution these people can provide for their organization. IOI's Personal Achievement Award was presented to KaSandra Keeling. IOI's Employer Award was presented to Moog of Murphy accepted by Scott Keaton, General Manager of Moog.



Join with IOI during the month of October to celebrate **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**



**Yes, I would like to contribute to the capital needs of I.O.I.**

All Gifts are Tax Deductible

Enclosed is a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward capital improvements at I.O.I.

**I make this gift:**

- In memory or honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- To benefit the client activity fund.
- To benefit the IOI Endowment Fund.
- Enclosed is my Quest Fellowship donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Industrial Opportunities, Inc. • P.O. Box 1649 • Andrews, NC 28901  
828-321-4754 • Fax 828-321-4784 • 800-872-4264 • E-mail shannin@industrialopportunities.com**

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