



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Achievement Academy's Executive Director Announces Retirement

LAKELAND, FL (October 12, 2020) - Achievement Academy, Executive Director John Burton has announced that he will retire from his position effective December 31, 2020.

Achievement Academy is a local nonprofit that provides early education to children with special needs. On any given day, Burton can be found personally welcoming children off the bus, interacting with donors, or working on fulfilling projects with Board members, supporters and staff.

"I have enjoyed virtually every minute of every day that I have been associated with the Achievement Academy," Burton said. "I have been inspired by our children – in both the Birth to Three Program and our Charter School – beyond measure. And I have been motivated by each of our teachers, therapists, paraprofessionals and staff members and the manner in which they have served all of our stakeholders – children, families, Board members, donors and friends. Without a doubt, Achievement Academy is THE most rewarding and fulfilling workplace in which I have ever been involved. I extend my sincere thanks to all who have made these past six plus years so positively impactful."

"We are excited that John will be able to spend more time with his family and we are eternally grateful for all of the amazing work that he has done for the most vulnerable children in our community," said Luke Markham, President of the Achievement Academy Board of Directors. "We will miss his leadership, compassion and dedication and will continue to build on the excellent foundation he has helped to provide for our children."

About the Achievement Academy

*The Achievement Academy serves children from birth through age five with various developmental delays and disabilities. The Achievement Academy offers two programs, each provided at no cost to the child or family. The first program is a **Charter School** that offers specialized instruction by certified teachers; small class sizes; individual speech, occupational and physical therapies; and assistive technologies that enable each student to reach his or her full potential at one of the Achievement Academy's three campus locations (Lakeland, Winter Haven and Bartow). The second is a "**Birth to Three Program**" that provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers who are "at-risk" for developmental delays and/or have been identified with a specific delay. Professional Early Interventionists serve these children and their families. More than half of the Birth to Three Program's budget is funded by a generous allocation from the United Way of Central Florida.*