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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LIGHTHOUSE WORKS EMPLOYEE GRADUATES FROM ELITE MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM**

*"Statement from Lee Nasehi, President & CEO Lighthouse Central Florida & Lighthouse Works!"*

ORLANDO, FL, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015— On behalf of the entire Lighthouse family, I want to offer heartfelt congratulations to Mr. LC Benson for his successful completion of the nationally recognized Business Management Training (BMT) program. Offered by the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) at George Mason University, the BMT program is an intensive 15-month course that's meant to develop in students a critical business perspective and management abilities.

At Lighthouse Works we believe in "Empowerment through Employment", and we are incredibly proud of the journey LC has been on since first joining the Lighthouse family in 2008 as a client receiving services. He then became one of the first Customer Care Professionals to be hired by Lighthouse Works! in 2011 when the company was created as a subsidiary of Lighthouse Central Florida.

LC, who had a prospective pro-football career prior to losing much of his vision, quickly exhibited leadership qualities at Lighthouse Works which got him noticed. In 2013 he was recognized by the Central Florida Customer Service Association with their Diamond Award for Customer Service Excellence. It was the first time the award was given to a person with vision impairment.

LC is proof positive that having a disability does not have to define your ability!

Lighthouse Works is one of 93 nonprofit agencies associated with National Industries for the Blind (NIB), which produces SKILCRAFT® products and provides services for federal and military customers through the federal government's AbilityOne® Program. NIB and its associated agencies serve as the largest employer of people who are blind in the United States, employing more than 5,500 people who are blind.

According to the American Foundation for the Blind, 75 percent of the estimated 4 million adults in the U.S. who are completely blind or partially sighted are not in the labor force—this despite the fact that, as a disability group, people with blindness have one of the highest rates of education.



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Championing the mission of living, learning and earning with vision loss, Lighthouse Central Florida and its subsidiary, Lighthouse Works, have worked tirelessly to correct this injustice and help create employment opportunities for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Both Lighthouse and LW! currently employ 25 people who are blind and visually impaired—approximately 40 percent of our total staff. These talented individuals deliver a variety of services, including call center and supply chain operations. Both organizations have trained countless others for positions in integrated workplaces among sighted co-workers, in multiple industries.

## **ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE WORKS!**

Lighthouse Works is a social enterprise non-profit, which means its businesses exist to forward and fund our mission of living, learning and earning with vision loss. Through our wide range of businesses, we are able to provide job training, employment and career opportunities for the advancement of people who are visually impaired. Lighthouse Works operates as a subsidiary of Lighthouse Central Florida—Central Florida's only private, non-profit agency offering a comprehensive range of services to people living with sight impairment in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties. Established in 1976, Lighthouse has served generations with comprehensive vision rehabilitation and employment services. Lighthouse Works is affiliated with the National Industries for the Blind (NIB)—the nation's largest employment resource for people who are blind. Additionally, Lighthouse Works operates in partnership with the AbilityOne Program to secure quality product services to the federal government at fair market prices. To learn more, please visit: [www.lighthouseworks.org](http://www.lighthouseworks.org).

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