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First Place recruiting adults with autism

The First Place Tradition Academy, in collaboration with the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC), is now enrolling adults with autism 18 years and older in its two-year program that focuses on independent-living skills, continuing education opportunities, vocational training and employment.

The First Place Transition Academy is being launched through a beta site at 29 Palms Apartments in Phoenix, which has six two-bedroom apartments for adults with autism and 15 affordable housing units for seniors. Residents will live there for two years and then transition into the community to live close to their family or job. They will also have the option to live at the First Place Apartments, expected to break ground in 2015 and open in 2016, in Phoenix.

"Our focus is to help adults learn the skills they need so they may live where they want and as independently as possible with access to the people, places, jobs and activities they prefer and that make them happy," said Daniel Openden, president and CEO of SARRC, in a press release.

Orientation begins in December and classes start in early January.

Interested applicants can apply online and then undergo a life-skills assessment conducted by SARRC and First Place. Annual tuition, which covers rent, classes, individualized services and activities, is \$3,500 a month.

For more information, call 602-733-6525 or visit firstplaceaz.org.