The Gifford Youth Achievement Center was filled with 350 job seekers and 25 local employers at its inaugural Gifford Job Fair held in October, surpassing all expectations of participation.

Just under 350 job seekers were able to come through and speak with 28 employers who brought 300 open positions to the event, many of whom were either hired, given appointments for second interviews or directed to job training managers who were also on hand. Almost a dozen service agencies were also there to help those who needed further guidance or direction to help them relieve any current issues.

Opening ceremonies were led by the Indian River County Color Guard as Sheriff Deryl Loar led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a few words by each of the distinguished guests. Each division of First Responders in Indian River County were honored with a plaque by the Gifford Job Fair Committee.

This was a cooperative effort by CareerSource Research Coast, the Gifford Youth Achievement Center, Grand Harbor Community Outreach and the Progressive Civic League of Gifford, Piper Aircraft, Gifford Front Porch, United Way of Indian River County, John’s Island Community Service League, Publix Supermarkets and the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce.

Distinguished guests for participating in the opening ceremonies included Sheriff Deryl Loar, Vero Beach Police Chief David Currey, Fellsmere Police Chief Keith Touchberry, Sebastian Police Chief Michelle Morris, Indian River County Fire Chief John King, Indian River County Commissioner Joe Flescher and Vero Beach Mayor Laura Moss. The success of this event has encouraged all participants to return in 2018 and make it an annual event.

The Gifford Youth Achievement Center is at 4875 43rd Ave., Vero Beach; 772-794-1005.