



Admission Criteria

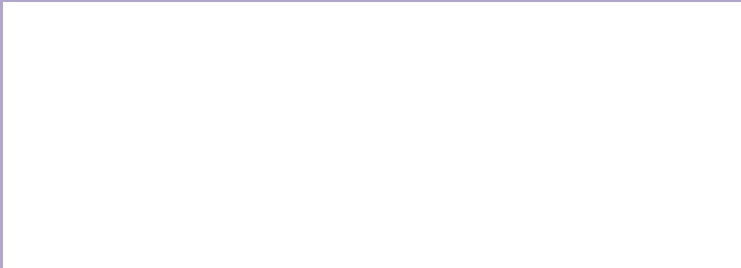
- Must be 18-21 years old
- Referred by a participating school district
- Have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Ready to accept a high school diploma upon completion of the Project SEARCH program year
- Strong desire to work 16 or more hours per week after program completion
- Strong family support

Next Steps

Please contact the Project SEARCH Staff for event details. Applications are provided upon request detailing the process for qualified students.

For more information, contact:

Your child's case manager or
Macy Kellenberger, RAMP Project SEARCH Coordinator
Mkellenberger@rampcil.org | 779-774-1027



Special thanks to Project SEARCH major sponsors:

- The Bersted Foundation
- DeKalb County Community Foundation
- Ideal Industries
- The Roberts Family Foundation
- Target Distribution
- 3M Foundation



Project | SEARCH®



What is Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a unique, business led, one year school to work transition program that takes place entirely in the workplace. The selected Student interns will work in three internships over the course of the Academic year in combination with classroom instruction, goal setting, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations. Each student intern works with a team that includes their family, an instructor, a department mentor, rehabilitation counselor and Employment Specialist to create their employment goal and to support the student during their transition from school to work.

History

In 1996, while working as the Director of the Emergency Department at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Erin Riehle was frustrated with finding employees for entry-level jobs that involved restocking supplies. While working to identify a solution to eliminating the high turnover rates, Cincinnati Children's had adopted a major diversity initiative. Erin wondered if people with disabilities could fill the jobs she had available. Not knowing anyone with a disability, she turned to local disability organizations and asked if her idea was possible. Together with these organizations, the idea of filling a handful of jobs in Cincinnati Children's Emergency Department evolved into a comprehensive program model - Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH has grown from one original program site at Cincinnati Children's to over 600 programs across 47 states and 10 countries. 25,976 people served since 2010!



***“Tell me
and I forget;
teach me
and I may
remember;
involve me
and I learn.”***

- Benjamin Franklin



Work Site Rotations

Each student participates in three internships supported by an onsite Employment Specialist and supervised by a Northwestern Medicine at Kishwaukee Hospital Manager. A Special Education Teacher oversees the students' programs and provides daily classroom instruction at the beginning and end of each day.

Project SEARCH internships at Northwestern Medicine at Kishwaukee Hospital are unpaid, similar to other internship programs, and are individually created to focus on each student intern's interests and work potential. Sites may include:

- ◆ Adult Patient Floors
- ◆ Diagnostic Imaging
- ◆ Linens
- ◆ Guest Services
- ◆ Rehab Services
- ◆ Dish Room
- ◆ Emergency Department
- ◆ Cancer Center
- ◆ Pediatrics
- ◆ Surgical Services
- ◆ Food Service
- ◆ Registration
- ◆ Interventional Radiology
- ◆ Central Supply
- ◆ Sterilization Processing
- ◆ Shipping & Receiving

Classroom Curriculum

Throughout the school year, student interns participate in a functional academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent living skills. Major classroom focus areas include:

- ◆ Team Building
- ◆ Workplace Safety
- ◆ Technology
- ◆ Self-Advocacy
- ◆ Preparing for Employment
- ◆ Financial Literacy
- ◆ Health & Wellness
- ◆ Maintaining Employment

Benefits to the Students

- Participate in a variety of internships within the host business
- Acquire competitive, transferable and marketable job skills
- Gain increased independence, confidence, and self-esteem
- Obtain work-based individualized coaching, instruction and feedback
- Develop linkages to Vocational Rehabilitation and other adult service agencies

