

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!



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Worksite Rotations

Each student participates in three internships supported by an onsite skills trainer and supervised by a Mercyhealth 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 Mercyhealth are unpaid, similar to other internship programs, but are individually created to focus on each student's interests and work potential. Sites include:

- ◆ Pharmacy
- ◆ Operating Room
- ◆ Central Distribution
- ◆ Human Resources
- ◆ Environmental Services
- ◆ Food Services
- ◆ Sterile Processing
- ◆ Pediatrics
- ◆ Mail Room
- ◆ Cancer Center
- ◆ Pain Center
- ◆ Physical Therapy
- ◆ OB GYN

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

- Benjamin Franklin

Classroom Curriculum

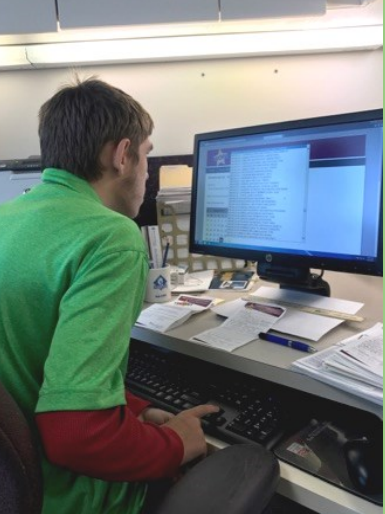
Throughout the school year, students participate in a functional academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent living skills. Major classroom focus areas include:

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





Admission Criteria

- ◆ Be 18-21 years of age
- ◆ Referred by a participating school district
- ◆ Have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan)
- ◆ Ready to graduate upon completion of the Project SEARCH program year
- ◆ Strong desire to achieve a job in the community
- ◆ Family support

Next Steps

Please contact the Project SEARCH Staff or visit the Project SEARCH Mercyhealth facebook page for event details. Applications are provided upon request detailing the process for qualified students.

For more information, contact:

Your child's case manager or
Autumn Gabriel, RAMP Project SEARCH Coordinator
 AGabriel@rampcil.org | 779-774-1028

Special thanks to Project SEARCH major sponsors:

Boone County Community Foundation
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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 students will work in three internships over the course of the year in combination with classroom instruction, goal setting, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations. Each student works with a team that includes their family, an instructor, a department mentor, rehabilitation counselor and Employment Specialists to create their employment goal and to support the student during their transition from school to work.