

The History

In 1996, Erin Riehle, Director of Cincinnati Children's Emergency Department felt that, because the hospital served individuals with developmental disabilities, it made sense that they should commit to hiring people in this group. She wondered if it would be possible to train people with developmental disabilities to fill some of the high- turnover, entry-level positions in her department, which involved complex and systematic tasks such as stocking supply cabinets. Erin presented her ideas to Susie Rutkowski, then the special education director at Great Oaks Career Campuses. Erin and Susie formed a partnership that was instantaneous, and together they launched Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH's primary objective is to secure competitive employment for people with disabilities.

For More Information on Project SEARCH Contact:

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Project | SEARCH®

What is a Project SEARCH Internship?

A Project SEARCH Internship example is when a student works on the University of West Georgia campus, without pay, in order to learn skills and gain work experience.



Program

Project SEARCH is a transitional program for students with disabilities. It is a partnership between Carrollton City Schools, the University of West Georgia (host site), Georgia Council for Developmental Disabilities, and the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. It is a year-long program (1 school year) where the interns learn job skills that will help them to get a job in a competitive workforce.

Areas of Focus

- Team Building
- Workplace Safety
- Technology
- Social Skills and Communication
- Presentation and Interviewing Skills
- Money Management
- Health and Wellness
- Job Search Skills and Keeping a Job

Benefits

- Post-secondary training and internship experience
- Opportunity to work in a high-status organization
- Develop strength areas
- Work towards independence in many areas such as transportation, daily living skills, etc.



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Project SEARCH not only enriches the lives of the students but of every person that works with them.

-Greg Iglesias