



Project | SEARCH®
ALASKA



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Employment Partnership: Fairbanks Project SEARCH and GCE

Success is measured in many ways. For many it is measured in money, for others in longevity. For our young people with disabilities, it is measured in how they finish what they start. Fairbanks Project SEARCH was started back in 2011 at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Each year since then has seen a range of 5-8 interns experiencing adulthood like never before. They have been immersed in the business, and they have gained so much more than job skills. Each one has gained a sense of independence.

As part of the program, we work with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to help these young people find employment opportunities in the local community. There are many businesses that support our program by providing tours and mock interview training. One of those businesses is Global Connections to Employment (GCE) located at the Eielson AFB Dining Facility. We have been fortunate to have 4 previous interns hired by GCE, including one last April just as the pandemic hit.

Kenny Wilson, Gabriel Rockwell, James Rockwell, and James Ridgway are all full-time employees working in a variety of jobs in the Eielson DFAC. When asked what they felt Project SEARCH gave them in preparation for employment, they all agreed the hands-on experience was the key to their success. As for how they all feel about themselves now that they have some time and experience under their belts, these young men all feel like independent adults. Fairbanks Project SEARCH is proud of these amazing young people and grateful to GCE for providing employment opportunities for them.



Pictured L to R: Kenny Wilson, Gabriel Rockwell, Stephen Sandquist (GCE Project Manager), James Ridgway, and James Rockwell.