



Project SEARCH

LEADING THE WAY TO POSITIVE SECONDARY TRANSITION OUTCOMES

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MOORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- January 2025
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781 Program Sites	48 US States	9 Countries	48,753 People Served since 2010
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Erin Riehle, Founder

- Developed in 1996
- Program model followed CCHMC healthcare diversity initiative
- Partnered with Great Oaks Tech Center for program participants
- Currently over 700 sites
- U.S., Canada, U.K., Australia & Ireland
- Program model now being replicated in banking, manufacturing, hospitality, forestry, and university settings

National
Project
SEARCH™

Project SEARCH is built upon PARTNERSHIP



Project | SEARCH®



Project SEARCH is

- 1-year (academic year),
- business-led,
- transition-to-work program,
- for individuals with a disability,
- that takes place entirely at a business host site.

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Goal of Project SEARCH

To achieve competitive employment (as defined by Project SEARCH)

- At least 16 hours per week
 - Pays the prevailing wage for the job (minimum wage or higher)
 - Year-round employment (non-seasonal)
 - In an integrated setting (among co-workers with and without disabilities)
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- A series of four yellow curved dashes in the bottom right corner, arranged in a diagonal line from bottom-left to top-right.

Total Workplace Immersion

Work Based Learning Promotes:

- **Problem Solving**
- **Teamwork**
- **Social Skill Development**
- **Adult Thinking Processes**



Research

- A current best practice in the field of transition (Mueller & VanGlider, 2014)
- Combines training in employment and independent living skills, real-life work experience, and assistance in placement upon competition (Rutkowski, Daston, Van Kuiken, & Riehle, 2006)
- Allows for context-based learning in all skill areas
- Includes active involvement by the site employers

Developing Marketable Job Skills

- Not the easiest jobs, but complex and systematic
- Taking everyday tasks and identifying marketable job skills
- Example:
 - Task: Serving in the cafeteria
 - Greet customers and take order (customer service)
 - Preparing salad bar(organization)
 - Taking trays to the back (ability to lift and carry, sorting)
 - Perform tasks independently



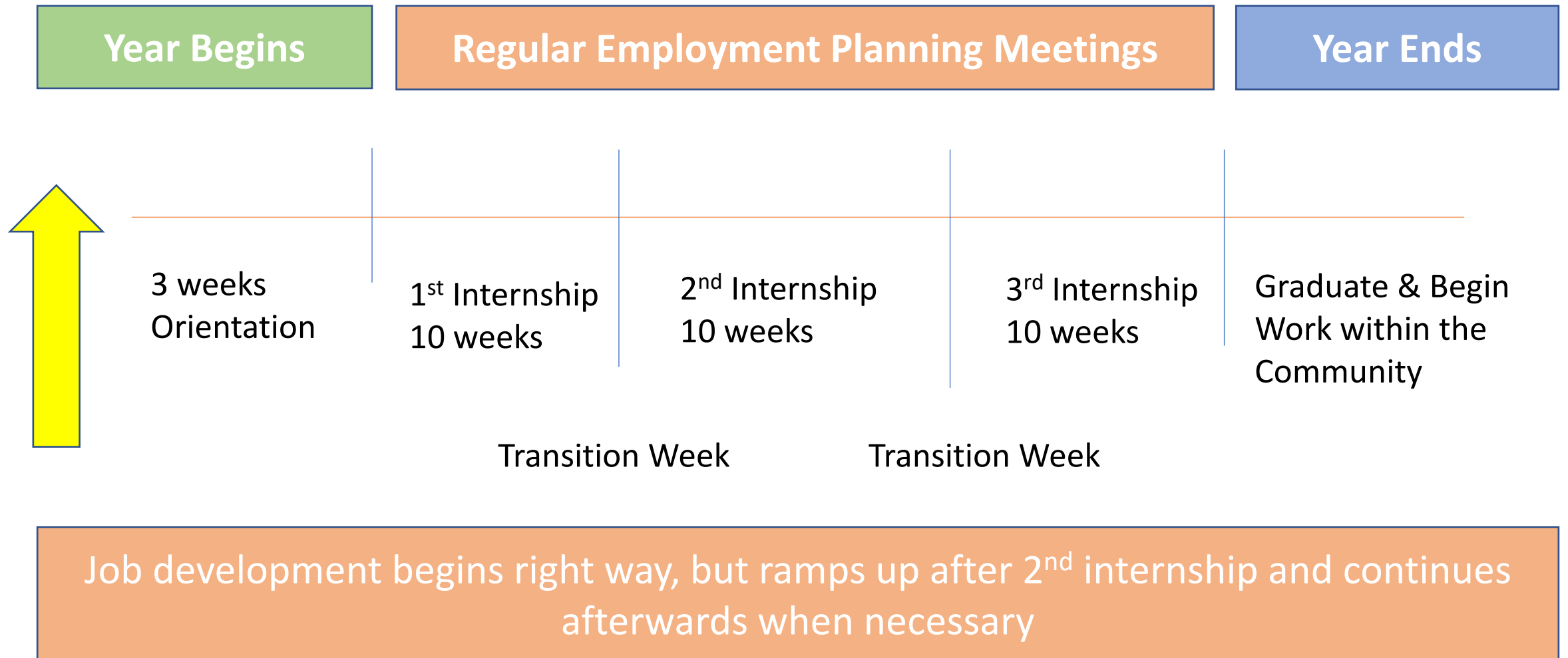
Task Analysis

- Used to teach job tasks
- Internships broken into systematic steps
- Used to assess interns weekly
- Use a task analysis where each essential step of the job is listed.
- Each week, the job coaches evaluate the level of prompting the intern needs on each step.
- We are working towards “I’s” for independent, but most start off with a lot of “g’s” for gestures or “v’s” for verbal cues.

Expectations

- Ten-month, non-paid internship follows school calendar
- Participate in (3) 10-week career exploration experiences (rotations) at host business
- Total immersion in the workplace
- AM employability classroom instruction
- Receive on-site and individualized instruction and support by program instructor, job skills trainers and business mentor
- Career Path Discovery

Typical Project SEARCH Calendar



AUGUST 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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28	29	30	31			
SEPTEMBER 2022						
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OCTOBER 2022						
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NOVEMBER 2022						
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DECEMBER 2022						
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2022-2023

Calendar

BOE Approved
11/08/2021

Teachers Report August 8th
Students Report August 11th

Holidays/Breaks/Prof Dev Days

Sept 5 Labor Day
Sept 19 In-service
Oct 14 Parent/Teacher Conf
Oct 20-21 Fall Break
Nov 21-25 Thanksgiving
Dec 16 End of 1st Semester
Dec 19-Jan 2 Winter Break
Jan 3 Record Day
Jan 16 MLK Jr Day
Feb 20 TNT Day
Mar 10 Parent/Teacher Conf
Mar 13-17 Spring Break
Apr 21 No School
May 23 Last Day of School
May 24 Record Day

■ Students out of School
■ Teacher Professional Days

(1st Semester)
Instructional Days 83
Professional Days 4
87

(2nd Semester)
Instructional Days 92
Professional Days 3
95

Total 182

JANUARY 2023						
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FEBRUARY 2023						
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MARCH 2023						
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APRIL 2023						
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MAY 2023						
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Project SEARCH Norman Regional Health Systems- Moore Public Schools

2021 - 2022 Calendar

August '21						
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September '21						
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October '21						
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November '21						
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December '21						
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January '22						
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30	31					
February '22						
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March '22						
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April '22						
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30	31					
May '22						
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June '22						
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26	27	28	29	30		

- Orientation
- First Day of School
- Classroom Training
- No School
- 1st Rotation (staggered)
- Transition Week
- 2nd Rotation (staggered)
- 3rd Rotation (staggered)
- Graduation and Last Day Tentative
- Employee Planning Meetings



*Please note all dates are subject to change. Any adjustments to the calendar will be communicated by a Project SEARCH team member.

Classroom
Training
Students are
instructed on
topics such as:

- Team Building
- Navigating your Workplace and Workplace Safety
- Technology
- Social Skills and Communication
- Presentation and Interviewing Skills
- Money Management
- Health and Wellness
- Resume Development
- Personal Document Management
- Job Search Skills
- Maintaining a job

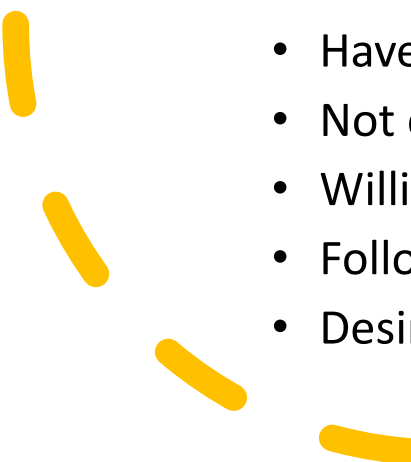
Daily Schedule

8:00 AM	Attendance – Students Check-in
8:00 AM- 8:45 AM.	Classroom Training
8:45 AM-9:00 AM	Transition to Rotation
9:00 AM-2:00 PM	Internship Work Experience
2:00 PM-2:15 PM	Transition from Internship Site to Classroom
2:15 PM-2:45 PM	Reflections
2:45 PM- 3:00 PM.	Transition to dismissal





Eligibility Guidelines

- Desire and ability to work independently and become employed!
 - Between 18 and 22 years old
 - High School Senior; lacking Senior English & Elective Credits
 - Ability to communicate effectively
 - Meet eligibility requirements for Vocational Rehabilitation and school partner
 - Ability to take direction
 - Willingness to change behavior
 - Obtain Food Handlers Permit
 - Have transportation or be willing to work toward independent transportation
 - Not college bound
 - Willing to participate in a non-paid internship program
 - Follow hospital vaccination requirements
 - Desire and ability to work independently and become employed!
- 

Ideal Candidate

Many successful interns come to Project SEARCH after having 1-2 years in traditional transition programs

Individuals in the middle- does not need sustained 1:1 job coaching but is not yet self-sufficient

Be able to maintain appropriate hygiene, social, behavioral, and communication skills (may be other than verbal)

Committed to 100% attendance

Can demonstrate a desire to obtaining competitive employment (at least 16 hours per week)

Pass employer requirements (background check, etc.)

Selection Process

Candidates submit a completed application.

Candidates must be eligible to receive vocational rehabilitation services through DRS.

Candidates must be willing and able to work independently in the community upon completion of the program.

Applications are reviewed for completion, relevance, and eligibility.

Candidates are interviewed by a panel of partners

Parents are interviewed by a panel of partners

Students are given a skills assessment

Student Role in Internships

- Identify areas of interest
- Come ready to work each day
- Send letter and resume/data sheet to department
- Interview for rotation position
- Absent: notify teacher/department
- Give rotation a two-weeks notice
- Participate in exit interview
- Write thank you letters
- Update portfolio/resume

Family Role



Support the student in their career goals



Reinforce job readiness and independent living skills



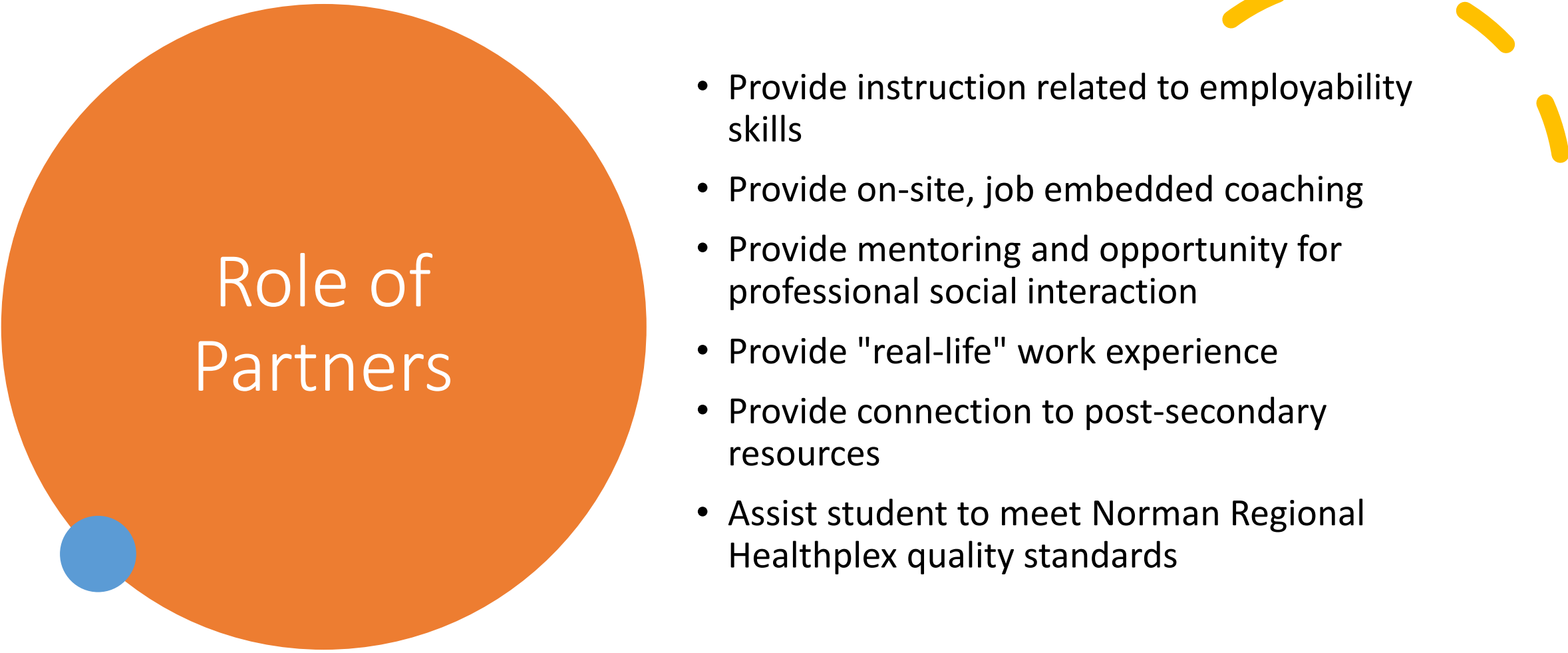
Collaboratively participate in the "Employment Planning and Progress" meetings



Actively participate in job search



Assist in identifying independent transportation options to future competitive job



Role of Partners

- Provide instruction related to employability skills
- Provide on-site, job embedded coaching
- Provide mentoring and opportunity for professional social interaction
- Provide "real-life" work experience
- Provide connection to post-secondary resources
- Assist student to meet Norman Regional Healthplex quality standards

Norman Regional Healthplex Rotation Options

Ortho Central Physical Therapy

Ortho Central Surgery

Kitchen

Cafeteria

Patient Access

Outpatient Labs

Floor Tech

Linen

Ortho Spine

Progressive Cardiac Care Unit

Mother Baby

Where are they now...



Braum's

Daisy Exchange

Tinker Air Force Base

Wal-Mart

Not Your Average Joe

Moore Public Schools

Van's Pig Stand

Primrose School

Norman Regional Health System

Urban Air



Community Volunteering



ANY QUESTIONS?



Thank you!

Visit the Project SEARCH website
for more information:

<https://www.projectsearch.us>

Facebook-
Project SEARCH- Oklahoma

