Project SEARCH Graduate Spotlight January 2026

The Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 LVH—Schuylkill Project SEARCH program aims to achieve competitive, integrated employment for graduates. Employment occurs in integrated settings, with typical wages, at least 16 hours per week, and a focus on full-time, complex work. Graduates receive long-term support, including employer check-ins and resource exploration, to ensure job retention and success.

We are proud to share some graduate stories!

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GRADUATE *Spotlight*

ALEXIS KITCHENS



Alexis is doing great at her job with the Nutrition Group at the Schuylkill Technology Center. Skookie Rides picks her up in the morning to be at work at 7 am. She was always an early bird. STS brings her home...all rides set up by Alexis. When not at work, she likes to go to movies and helps her mother in the kitchen. They love her at the STC. Her mother loves how she meets the community during her time at work. She has become, thanks to Project SEARCH, a member of our community...which she's so thankful for.

"Thank you for all this program has done for my daughter and I hope the other interns had as much success. I'm forever grateful." Heather Brazenec

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CLARE PURCELL



Clare works at Luther Ridge Assisted Living in the dietary department. Her primary tasks are making coffee, taking the food orders from the many residents as well as sweeping and mopping the floor when finished.

Clare was an intern during the program's first year, 2023-2024. She enjoyed her time at Project SEARCH. She especially liked her time in the Patient Transport department where she was able to transport patients to and from their procedures.

★★★★★

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NATHAN SLEVA



Nathan was an intern during the second program year, 2024-2025. Nathan is currently a dishwasher at the Branchdale Diner. He really likes working there. The family that owns the diner has been so great with Nate!! Very understanding of his situation. They took him right under their wing.

“We are so thankful he found this job and thankful for the Project SEARCH program.” Jessica Wenner

Pictured with Nathan is his co-worker, Tarek Elfawal

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GRADUATE *Spotlight*

RYAN STEIFF



Ryan is a graduate of North Schuylkill Jr/Sr High School. He attended Project SEARCH in the 2024-2025 program year. While in attendance there, Ryan completed 3 internships in the Transportation, Environmental, and Food Services. Through this experience, Ryan discovered he enjoyed working in Food Services.

He is now employed by North Schuylkill School District and is working in the Elementary School Cafeteria. Ryan really enjoys his job and his co-workers.