

Community Hospital Host Business

Host an Intern

Project SEARCH is about employment. If your department could use a helping hand and wants to make a difference in the lives of others let us know. We are always looking for dynamic environments for our interns. Please reach out to martha.christen@d51schools.org for more information.

Be a Pal

If you're interested in having lunch with a Project SEARCH intern in order to get to know them, support them and educate them on you and your role in the hospital, please reach out to kdaniels@gjhosp.org.

Employer Benefits

- New and diverse talent stream with skills that match labor needs
- Interns with disabilities serve as role models to those patient and family populations we serve
- Improved performance and retention in some typically high-turnover positions
- Long-term changes in business culture that have far reaching positive effects on attitudes about hiring people with disabilities and the range of jobs they can do

Community Hospital Team Contacts

Instructor – Martha Christen martha.christen@d51schools.org
Skills Trainer – Wendy Asplund wasplunds@strivecolorado.org
Paraprofessional – Angela Forsgren aforsgre@d51schools.org
Business Liaison – Kathy Daniels kdaniels@gjhosp.org

Project SEARCH Mission Statement

Project SEARCH is dedicated to providing education and training to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through an innovative workforce and career development model that benefits the individual, workplace, and community. Our primary goal is to secure competitive employment outcomes for each for our student graduates

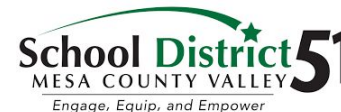
Project SEARCH
2351 G Road
Grand Junction, CO 81505

[Learn more at projectsearch.us](http://projectsearch.us)



Project | SEARCH

A school to work transition program
for young adults with intellectual
and developmental disabilities



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is an innovative school-to-work transition program for students with significant intellectual or developmental disabilities. As a business-led collaboration, Project SEARCH enables young adults with disabilities to gain and maintain employment through career exploration and training. The program is dedicated to workforce development that benefits the individual, workplace and community. With curriculum designed to augment skills needed to obtain and maintain employment, students participate daily in classroom instruction along with an internship that provides technical and employability skills. All experiences occur within the community setting.

The Placements

We place our interns in jobs across the hospital

Between August and May program participants learn job skills and participate in departments like:

- Flying Pig Café
- Lab
- Emergency Department
- Environmental Services
- Radiation/Oncology
- Materials Management
- Spine
- And we're looking for more!

Our Goal is Employment

Competitive integrated employment (CIE)

The Project SEARCH Team works with the graduate to find employment based on skills and interest starting in the spring. These paid jobs are in their communities.

The Team

Dedicated professionals

Community Hospital employs and partners with a team of experts in the field to ensure our interns and the departments they work in are well supported and successful throughout the year.

BECOMING AN INTERN

Intern Eligibility

Our interns come from Mesa County Valley School District 51

The program focuses on individuals with disabilities between the ages of 18-21 years of age. For an intern to be eligible they must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Possess a strong desire to work
- Have completed the required credits of their education and be eligible to receive transition services from D51
- Be open to gaining travel skills via public transportation
- Be able to be independent on the job site, once they understand work expectations, and have received coaching to get them independent with co-worker support.
- Apply to the program by submitting a Project SEARCH application and apply for services with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)



Our Partners

Project SEARCH is made possible by partnerships with:

- The Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Mesa County Valley School District 51
- Mesa County Workforce Center
- STRiVE
- Community Hospital