HENRY FORD HEALTH℠
West Bloomfield Hospital
Project SEARCH Newsletter

FALL 2026 EDITION

Upcoming Events

- October 30 – Early Release
- November 3 – No Project SEARCH
- November 10- 1st Employment Meeting
- November 20 – Half Day – Dismiss 11:30
- November 25,26,27 – No Project SEARCH Thanksgiving Break
- December 9 – Second Employment Meeting
- December 18 – Early Release @1:30 pm
- December 21 – January 1, 2027 – Winter Break

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Welcome to Project SEARCH 2026-2027



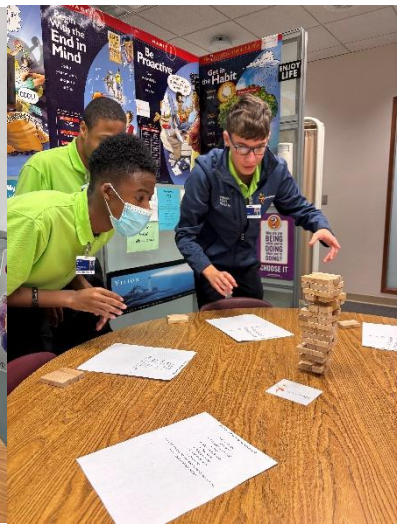

John


Christian


Xavier


Ethan





So what do you do in Project SEARCH?

As interns prepare to be immersed into real work life experiences, they began their first month at Project SEARCH learning hospital expectations, procedures and how to navigate the hallways. They were introduced to the habits of highly effective interns, engaged in team building…and more team building, and even more team building activities. One of the team building lessons involved building a structure out of index cards that will hold the "world." The interns were learning to be proactive in their responses and problem solving to determine how to build a structure while keeping the index cards standing, without tape or glue, especially when unforseen elements of fans and shaking tables played a part. The hardest role was learning how to communicate and work together to build one structure for all and to rebuild the structure within the time limits and the size expectations. They discovered that synergy takes time and is a work in process. *The Project SEARCH Classroom Curriculum units are: Team Building, Workplace Safety, Technology, Self Advocacy, Maintaining Employment, Financial Literacy, Health and Wellness, Preparing for Employment, and Social & Communication*.

Synergy = Working together to achieve more.










Henry Ford Team - Name Badge Pinning Ceremony and Rotation Announcement









Tuesday, September 22nd was a big day as the interns learned of their rotations and received their hospital name badges from Cliff Warren ~ Henry Ford Health Volunteer Services Coordinator, Theresa Gutierrez ~ Henry Ford Health HR Business Partner, West Bloomfield School District Superintendent, Dr. Dania Bazzi and Student Support Services Supervisor, Diana Shubnell listened as each intern spoke about their "Why" to becoming a Project SEARCH Intern and their goal for a job. Cliff provided words of inspiration, encouragement and recognized the growth the interns have demonstrated since beginning the program before distributing the well earned hospital name badges and the rotation assignments. The interns are working with the following departments: Supply Chain – Clean Linen Distribution, Supply Chain Surgical Services~OR, Birthing Center/ Patient Transportation, Acorn/Birch 2nd floor stocking patient areas, Food and Nutritional Services.








Let the rotations begin…

The first rotation began on Thursday, October 1, 2026. The week involved a scaffold start as the interns went to their departments. The interns receive initial training from the skills trainer on the tasks to be completed while developing their independence, confidence, problem solving skills and reliability to do the job. The interns work independently receiving daily periodic check ins at their rotation sites from the skills trainer and the instructor. Daily conversation, instruction from the Project SEARCH curriculum, modeling and reflection occur in the classroom to support the interns and provide stategies to prepare and maintain employment. The interns begin their day in the classroom, then go to their rotations for the middle part of their day before returning back to the classroom to reflect, continue learning and prepare for the next day.

Did you know? Competitive, Integrated Employment is the Goal…

The nationwide employment rate for people with disabilities is: 22%

The national Project SEARCH program employment rate is: 67%

The Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital Project SEARCH program employment rate is: 81%







Employment Congratulations

The 2024-2025 intern cohort received the Project SEARCH Excellent Employment Outcomes award. This national recognition is awarded to sites with 70% or higher employment outcomes. For this group of interns, 7 out of 8 secured competitive employment within the Project SEARCH criteria. The award was announced in July at the Annual Project SEARCH Conference.

Congratulations to our Site Intern of the Year



The 2025-2026 Project SEARCH Intern of the Year, Abbey, was honored at the New Horizon's Awards Banquet on the evening of Thursday, October 15, 2026. Awardees were recognized for their development of essential work readiness and transferable skills during their programs, including but not limited to communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. The interns in this category consistently approached their internship experience with motivation, resiliency, and effort. Skills trainer, Karen Palmer, was there to present Abbey with the award along with the New Horizon's leadership. Abbey's family shared their gratitude for this recognition…

First I want to say thank you so much for all your support of Abbey during her internship. She truly had a phenomenal experience throughout and learned so many important real life lessons which has helped her mature in more ways than I can express. The event last night was amazing. We got to hear from some very inspiring stories which honestly were so motivating for her. Thank you both for nominating her for this award. The impacts you both have made on these young interns is profound. Eternally grateful for this experience.