The SEARCH Spotlight

CELEBRATING OUR INTERNS. RECOGNIZING OUR MENTORS. BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES.





UPCOMING DATES:

- **Set up for LIV Conference**
  Sept. 30, Oct. 1 & 2
- **End of First Internship**
  November 6, 2026
- **Begin Second Internship**
  November 16, 2026
- **End of Second Internship**
  February 19, 2027
- **Begin Third Internship**
  March 1, 2027
- **End of Third Internship**
  May 10, 2027
- **GRADUATION**
  May 14, 2027



What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a nationally recognized school to work transition program for young adults with disabilities. Interns spend an entire school year working in a host business, rotating through three internships in various departments of the business while building employability and independent living skills. The goal of Project SEARCH is simple: prepare our interns for competitive, integrated employment after graduation from the program. But Project SEARCH isn't just about internships or a job— it's about changing futures. By combining classroom instruction with real workplace experience, we help young adults with disabilities discover their strengths, build confidence, and launch meaningful careers in their communities.

Thank you, Advent Health SOP!

Our interns, skills trainers, and instructor have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome we have received since beginning our program here in August. We couldn't ask for a better group of co-workers with whom to launch our *first ever Project SEARCH intern class!*



Who Are We? Meet Our Interns

Anh



Anh is working with Jensy in Environmental Services. You've probably seen him out and about with his cart. He loves to socialize, so be sure to tell him "Hi!".

Laina



Laina is a Supply Chain natural! She's helping with inventory for Lindsey and is starting to help stock supplies on the floors.

Michael



Michael is working in Nutrition Services. Matt is showing him the ropes, and he's becoming independent with collecting trays from upstairs after lunch.

Nyah



Nyah is working with Carly in Marketing and Jess in Education. She is excited to start helping with new employee orientation.

Project SEARCH is a Partnership

It takes a team to build a successful future! Project SEARCH brings together education, business, and vocational rehabilitation to provide a powerful pathway to employment. Blue Valley School District provides the educational foundation, Advent Health South Overland Park provides real-world work experiences, and Kansas Rehabilitation Services provides vocational support and resources.

> ***"Project SEARCH changes the culture of the hospital..."*** -Lindsey Deters EVS, AHSOP

Did You Know???

Project SEARCH began in 1996 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. What started as one hospital program has grown into a worldwide movement helping young adults with disabilities prepare for competitive employment. *AND...*

Project SEARCH now serves more than 55,000 interns and has 800+ program sites worldwide.



We also love to have fun, and we had a GREAT time at Advent Health Sports Park before we started our internships. This is us right after a fierce game of Laser Tag. Thanks to Carly for setting up the afternoon for us.

We're just getting started!

As our interns continue to learn, grow, and discover their strengths, we're looking forward to a fun and exciting remainder of the year—and all the successes still to come!

QUESTIONS? Contact Deanne Mills dmills@bluevalleyk12.org

RECOGNIZING INTERNS, MENTORS, AND THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE