

ASK OVR ABOUT PROJECT SEARCH

Project SEARCH is dedicated to providing education and training to youth and young adults with disabilities through an innovative workforce and career development model that benefits the individual, the workplace and the community. The primary goal is to secure competitive employment for each of the student interns.

The program is a one year program with a maximum of 12 student interns with various types of disabilities. The program is led by certified instructors and job coaches. Students who are in their final year of high school are eligible. Students intern rotate through internships and receive continual feedback. At the end of the program, the students are then eligible for employment.

Key Partners:

Businesses, OVR, Schools/Intermediate Units, County Intellectual Disability/ Developmental Disability Offices and Community Rehabilitation Providers.

Key Concepts:

1. Collaboration with businesses, education, rehabilitation and long term support.
2. Braided funding.
3. Immersion into the workplace.
4. Training in real work settings (each student intern gets multiple internships).
5. Low risk, low cost for businesses.
6. Hiring student interns who are a "good fit."
7. Goal of employment.

Key Benefits for Student Interns:

1. Postsecondary training and internship experience (no cost).
2. Opportunity to work in a high-status organization.
3. Develop strength areas.
4. Work toward independence in many areas such as transportation, independent living skills, etc.

COLLABORATION IS THE KEY!

PROJECT SEARCH IN THE KEYSTONE STATE

Our current Youth sites:

Allentown (two sites) – Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit (IU) #21, Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network and the Lehigh Valley Government Center.

Pittsburgh (two sites) – Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Mercy & Passavant.

York (two sites) – Lancaster General Hospital and Lancaster-Lebanon IU #13;
Wellspan Health System and Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12.

Erie – UMPC Cranberry and Riverview Intermediate Unit #6.

Norristown – Phoenixville Hospital and Chester County IU #4.

Reading – Deka Manufacturing and Berks County IU #14.

Harrisburg (two sites) – Lebanon Veterans Administration Medical Center and Lancaster-Lebanon IU #13.

Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and Capital Area Intermediate Unit

Adult sites:

Norristown DO: Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital and Lankenau Hospital

Harrisburg DO: Dauphin County Government and Goodwill Industries of Southcentral PA

If you have questions concerning Project SEARCH or would like more information, please contact:

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