

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I used to be a fan of roller coasters, however of late this seems to relate more to the unpredictable ups and downs of positive COVID-19 cases in Iowa, and not the thrill of descending quickly from high above. As the pandemic rages on, it seems more and more of us know someone closer to our inner circle who has tested positive. It can certainly change our perspective. Back in March when many of our programs came to a halt or experienced significant drops in usage, we experienced what we never had before, the inability to service our clients as needed. We hope to never experience this again. As we have gradually reopened programs we are committed to doing everything we can to keep both our staff and clients safe. This includes; staff and clients being screened daily for COVID-19 symptoms, wearing of masks unless there are health impacts, cleaning and disinfecting based on recommended guidelines, and allowing adequate space for appropriate distancing. Any staff or client experiencing COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to stay at home until it is considered safe for them to return. Please rest assured the health of our staff and those we serve is of utmost importance.



Our office continues to remain closed to the public. To minimize the number of people in the building the administrative team continues to work remotely from our homes. We continue to conduct all meetings via phone or Zoom at this time. In the interim, we do hope you will continue to reach out with any questions or needs that might arise, or just to check in. We are standing ready to help you.

Last but not least I want to remind you that *your vote has power!* It is not too soon to think about the November election. It is your way to have a voice in who gets picked to run our government and who can make a big difference for people with disabilities and their families. Our government makes laws, decides how money gets spent, and much more. Please visit The US Arc for additional resources at www.thearc.org/vote.

Stay cool and stay safe!

Sincerely,
Kyle Schramp
Acting Executive Director

PROJECT SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a work skills training program held at UnityPoint - St. Luke's Hospital each year. The program is unique because it combines classroom instruction with workplace internships to prepare young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for competitive employment.



Project | SEARCH

Our most recent group of interns started the program in September 2019. The interns spent the first 3 weeks of the program completing hospital orientation, participating in a skills assessment day, team building activities, learning to navigate the hospital, interview practice and communication skills.

The hospital offers a wide variety of internship opportunities for the interns to gain work experience in departments such as: Linen Services, Dietary Department, Human Resources, In-Patient/Out Patient Therapy Gym, Radiology/Imaging, Sterile Processing Department and the Birth Care Department. Each internship is 10 weeks in length and the interns work 20 hours per week; they are able to gain over 200 hours of work experience in each internship.

The interns were able to successfully complete 2 internships in the hospital setting this year. They were just beginning to start their third and final internship when COVID-19 started to become a reality in Iowa causing us to temporarily close Project SEARCH. In order to keep the interns engaged during their time away from the program we held weekly Zoom meetings. We were able to return to St. Luke's Hospital on June 18th to wrap up their classroom work. However, due to timing, they were not able to finish out their final internship.

Project SEARCH wrapped up its 6th year with 11 individuals successfully graduating from the program. On July 10th we celebrated the success of these individuals with a drive thru graduation. Lots of family members, friends, agency staff and hospital staff joined the celebration in support of these individuals.

Congratulations graduates and good luck on your future endeavors!



WATCH A VIDEO HIGHLIGHTING THE 2020 GRADUATES

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone who goes Above & Beyond?

Do you know someone who is a great advocate?

Do you know someone who represents one of the categories below?



Let them know by [submitting](#) your nomination today.

Nominations are due August 31st.

- Bill Sackter Self Determination/Self Advocate of the Year
- Business Supporter of the Year
- Community Advocate of the Year
- Direct Service Professional of the Year
- Employer of the Year
- Media Excellence
- Meritorious Service Award
- Outstanding Community Service
- Para Educator of the Year
- Professional of the Year
- Super Sibling of the Year

- Teacher/Educator of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer Group of the Year

SUBMIT A NOMINATION

2020 - YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

It's no secret that 2020 is a major election year. We are voting for a President, Legislatures, Representatives and many more officials in all areas of the government from the federal level down to your local town. The Arc of East Central wants to help get you ready to vote because we believe your voice matters. What that will look like is a series of e-blasts on major topics such as how to register to vote, how to obtain an absentee ballot, how to find where you vote at, your rights when it comes to voting and more. We will also have webinars, virtual presentations, and information on our website.



If there is a certain topic or questions you have that you would like us to address, please reach out to Lexi at LCoberly@arceci.org or calling 319-365-0487 ext. 1024. In the meantime stay tuned as we work hard to roll this series out to you from now until Election Day on Nov. 3, 2020.

Your donations help us support those with disabilities in our community.

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