

Project SEARCH benefits...

- Internship training experiences
- Competitive, transferable, and marketable job skills
- Increased independence, confidence, and self-esteem
- Individualized coaching, direct instruction, and feedback daily
- Building personal and professional relationships
- Opportunity to obtain and secure employment in non-traditional, complex and rewarding jobs.

"Getting to know our interns as people has been a great experience. They bring a new perspective to the table."

"My favorite thing about Project SEARCH is learning new things and meeting new friends."

"It is amazing to watch them grow and overcome challenges."

"I have become more independent since starting Project SEARCH."

"I have enjoyed planning my intern's duties and watching my staff embrace her. She has been a blessing to our unit."

Project SEARCH is provided by
The Arc of East Central Iowa
in partnership with
UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's
Hospital and Iowa Vocational
Rehabilitation Services.



Finding solutions. Generating success.



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If you have questions or are interested
in Project SEARCH please contact
The Arc of East Central Iowa
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www.arceci.org



Project | SEARCH



Project SEARCH uses a
combination of classroom
instruction coupled with
workplace internships to prepare
individuals with disabilities for
competitive employment.

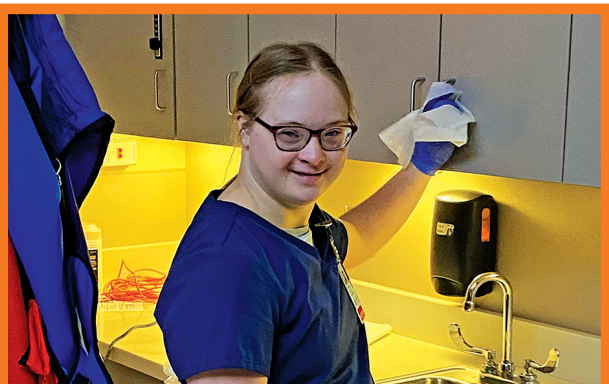


Project SEARCH was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in 1996 to fill the need for capable, dependable staff to stock supplies in their Emergency Room. In the ensuing years, it has spread across the country -- there are now around 667 sites in 48 states and 9 other countries.

Here in Iowa, the first program began in Des Moines at Iowa Methodist Hospital in 2011. Since then, 10 sites have been established across the state, including the first site in eastern Iowa at UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids in 2014.

Funding for the adult Project SEARCH program is provided through a variety of sources including Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region, Pre-Vocational Services/Medicaid and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS). There is no charge to the employer.

The presence of a Project SEARCH program can bring about long-term changes in business culture that have far reaching positive effects on attitudes about hiring people with disabilities and the range of jobs in which they can be successful.



Project SEARCH serves young adults (ages 18-30) with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have graduated from high school or the equivalent. The training program is nine to ten months in length with a business serving as the training site. Most Project SEARCH sites are located within a hospital but they can be done with any large business where there are a variety of jobs. Generally there are 6-12 interns enrolled in each training session. Project SEARCH interns complete three different workplace rotations over the course of the program.

A typical day includes:

- 8:30 to 9:30 AM - Classroom instruction in employability and independent living skills.
- 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM - Unpaid internship in a hospital department.
- 2:00 to 2:30 PM - Re-cap of the day.

Project SEARCH gives employers access to a diverse talent stream with skills that match their labor needs. When the program is complete and if a Project SEARCH graduate is hired, employers may also find that performance and retention in some high-turnover, entry-level positions will increase dramatically. Additionally, Project SEARCH is changing corporate culture and helping to add diversity to the workforce.

Project SEARCH training is conducted in a real work place with contact throughout the day with people without disabilities. Project SEARCH programs across the country have had great success in assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain employment. Cumulatively these programs have placed over 70% of their graduates into employment. This is due in large part to the employability skills they develop over the course of their training.

