



How Does Project SEARCH Work?

- ❖ Total immersion in the workplace for a full academic year
- ❖ Unique Employability Curriculum
- ❖ Learn relevant skills that are transferable to in-demand community employment
- ❖ Individualized skill building and employment planning
- ❖ Interagency collaboration for seamless transitions and best employment outcomes



What is Project SEARCH?



- ❖ Business-focused transition program
- ❖ Evidence-based best practice
- ❖ Rigorous model fidelity standards and processes
- ❖ Prepares young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for success in competitive, integrated employment



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Project | SEARCH®



Project SEARCH Impact:

- ❖ Nearly **40,000** young people served since 2010. Serving 5,000 each year and growing!
- ❖ Project SEARCH defines competitive employment as at least 16 hours per week, non-seasonal, working alongside people with and without disabilities, making a typical wage for that job.
- ❖ Over 70% of program graduates employed.
- ❖ Average salary of graduates: \$11.67/hour.
- ❖ Average hours worked: 24.4 hours/week.

Benefits to Participants:

- ❖ Acquire competitive, transferable, and marketable skills.
- ❖ Participate in 3 internship rotations within the host business for employment readiness and career exploration.
- ❖ Gain increased independence, confidence, and self-esteem.
- ❖ Obtain individualized skills training, instruction, and feedback.
- ❖ Develop linkages to Vocational Rehabilitation and other adult service agencies.



History

- ❖ Started at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in 1996.
- ❖ Developed by Erin Riehle and Susie Rutkowski, combining their expertise in nurse management and special education.
- ❖ Rapid growth from a single program site at Cincinnati Children's, into a comprehensive, internationally replicated, and widely recognized program model—Project SEARCH.

