

Project SEARCH: Transitioning into the World of Work



Administrators' Days
(NDE Day)

July 31, 2013

Kearney, Nebraska



Project SEARCH



INTRODUCTIONS

Project SEARCH



History of Project SEARCH

- 1996 Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- Erin Riehle, the Director of the Emergency Department & Susie Rutkowski, SPED Director at Great Oaks Career Campuses
- Real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help young adults with disabilities make successful transitions from school to productive adult life

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History of Project SEARCH

- Grown from one original program to over 235 across 42 states and four countries
- 2009 Good Samaritan & St. Francis Medical Centers 1st Project SEARCH Sites in Nebraska
- 2012 York General Health Care Services 8th Project SEARCH Site in Nebraska



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Program Description

- 5 - 12 Interns
- One school year program
- Last year of high school eligibility
- Interns with a variety of disabilities
- Rotation through unpaid internships with continual feedback
- Outcome of employment



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Eligibility Guidelines

- **Desire to Work!**
- **18 – 21 years old**
- **Eligible for Nebraska VR Services**
- **Appropriate hygiene, social and communication skills**
- **Ability to take direction and change behavior**
- **Access public transportation**
- **Pass criminal background check, TB Test**



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Selection of Interns

- Open House – Fall and Spring
- Tour York General Health Care Services/ Internship Sites
- People Involved
 - Special Education Staff
 - High School Guidance Counselor
 - Nebraska VR Counselor
 - Project SEARCH Instructor



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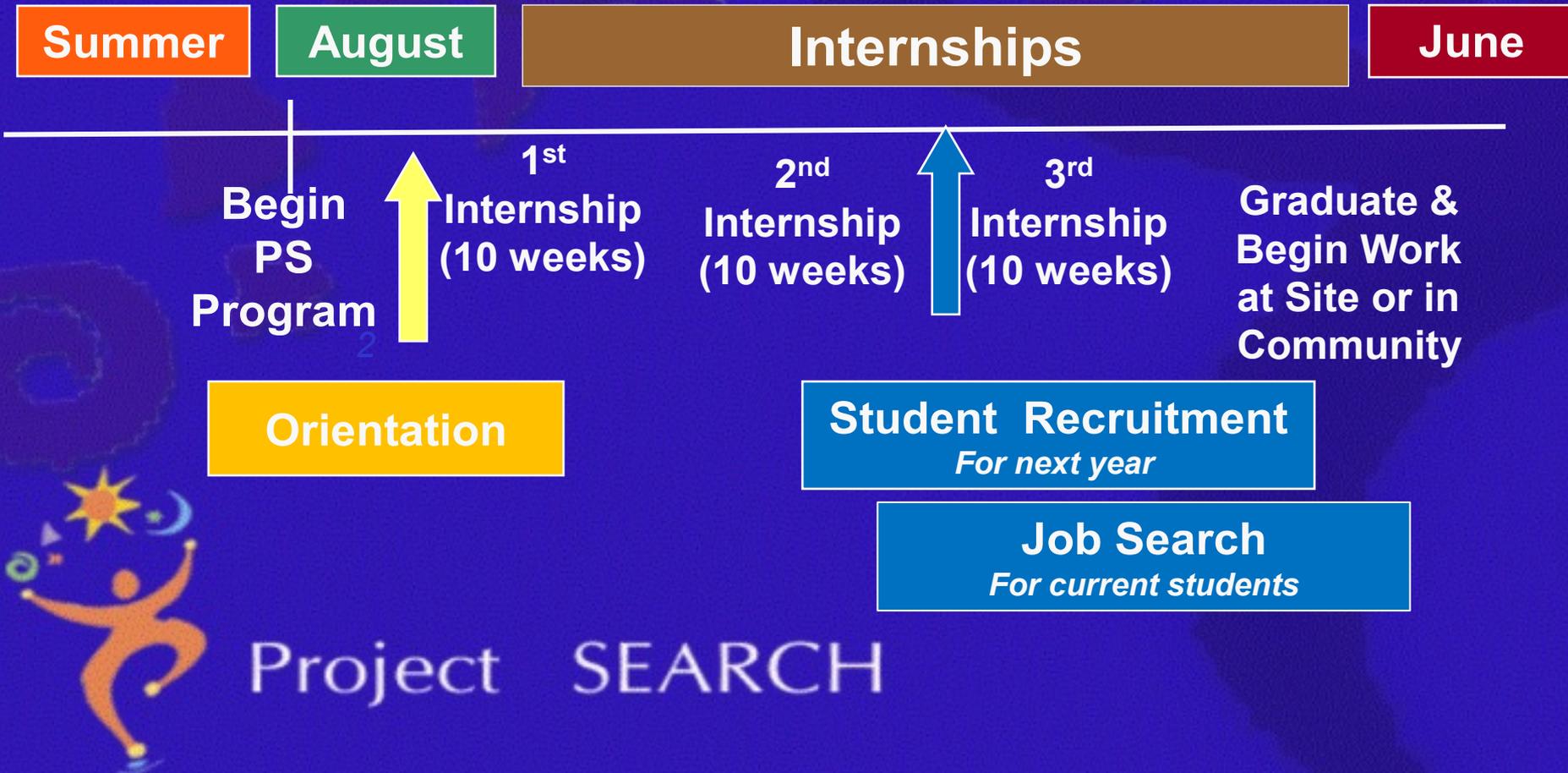
Selection of Interns continued

- Application – Early Spring
- Interview with Committee – Mid Spring
- Committee Selects Students (a.k.a. Interns)
- Decision Announced
- Constant Marketing



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Annual Calendar



Overall Goal of Project SEARCH

- **Placement of Project SEARCH Intern**
 - Looking for job
 - Applying for job
 - Obtaining a job
 - Maintaining a job



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Personal Goals



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York General Health Care Services



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Project SEARCH York Team

- York General Health Care Services
- ESU 6
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Nebraska Commission of the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Health and Human Services Developmental Disabilities
- Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership
- Area ESU 6 schools



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Project SEARCH, ESU 6 and YGHCS

- ESU 6 Schools
- Neighboring Schools
- Living Arrangements
 - Home
 - Host Family
- Transportation
 - On Own
 - Home District
 - Busy Wheels
- Classroom
 - Classroom
 - Internship Sites



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Orientation: First 3 weeks of the program

- Learning layout of YGHCS
- Complete mandatory employee education: safety, confidentiality, etc.
- Tour possible internships
- Practice interviewing skills
- Create resume, apply for internship and interview for internship
- Guest speakers from host business
- Stagger start dates of internships

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The Importance of Orientation



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2012-13 Project SEARCH Motto

I believe that I can do it when I take the steps ahead to make my dreams come true by:

- Staying Positive
- Trying
- Smiling
- Working Hard
- Taking Risks



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School Day

- 8:30 Staff Meeting:
Employability Skills
- 9:45-2:30 Worksites
- Lunch ~
Varies on site
- 2:45 Review, Plan,
Communication
- 3:15 Dismiss



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Employability Skills Curriculum

- Participate Daily
- Work Behavior
- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Budgeting
- Team Work
- Technology
- Job Application
& Resume



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Code of Conduct

- **Students are interns in host business**
- **Must adhere to disciplinary process of business**
- **Utilize department directors and mentors to give guidance with instructor**



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Internships

- Learn core, competitive, marketable skills
- Spend 4 – 5 hours each day at internship for 10 weeks
- Build work & social Skills
- Obtain feedback from PS and YGHCS staff
- Participate in 3 internships during Project SEARCH to build core skills



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Internship Sites

- **Marketing****
- **Hospital Lab**
- **Dietary Aide**
- **Child Care Aide**
- **Plant Operation****
- **Patient Transport**
- **Activities Assistant**
- **Greeter/Receptionist**
- **Materials Management**
- **Environmental Services**

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My Current Internship



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Transition Weeks

- **Between Internship 1 & 2, and 2 & 3**
- **Curriculum / Guest speakers**
- **Review internships and skills learned**
- **Update resume**
- **Students shadow each other**
- **Stagger start dates on internships so that students have needed job coach support**
- **Job Development**



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Monthly Intern Team Meetings

- Led by student
- Focus on skills learned in internships for first few months,
- Focus on job development after January
- Student, Parent, VR Counselor, Instructor
- Define and refine job goal
- All focused on employment



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Completion of Project SEARCH Program



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Impact on York General Health Care Services



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York General Willow Brook Residents



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Where Are They Now?

- Sara – York Public Schools
- Shawna – CNA Class Completed
- Megan – Working with Nebraska VR



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Paige Henderson Food Mart



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Amber York General Willow Brook



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You Should Know



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Project SEARCH Nebraska

12 Sites and Growing



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Nebraska Project SEARCH Sites

Host Business	City	School District
Wal-Mart Distribution Center	North Platte	North Platte Schools
Good Samaritan Medical Center	Kearney	Kearney School District
St. Francis Medical Center	Grand Island	Grand Island School District
Faith Regional Medical Services	Norfolk	Norfolk School System
St. Elizabeth Medical Center	Lincoln	Waverly, Norris and Crete Public Schools
Mary Lanning Medical Center	Hastings	Hasting Public Schools



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Nebraska Project SEARCH Sites

Host Business	City	School District
Columbus Community Hospital	Columbus	Columbus and ESU
York General Health Care Services	York	ESU 6 and York Public Schools
Embassy Suites	Papillion/ LaVista	Papillion/LaVista School District
Embassy Suites	Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools
Embassy Suites Old Market	Omaha	Omaha Public Schools
Sioux City Medical Center	Sioux City	Umohon Nation/ Winnebago



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Thank You!

York Public Schools
Shickley Public Schools
Heartland Community Schools

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