Interns prepare for the workforce!

As graduation approaches for the class of 2018, interns prepare to transition into the workforce. Project SEARCH is an international program that provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youths with disabilities make successful transitions from school to a productive adult life. The goal for each student is competitive employment within the community. The Project SEARCH program runs from September to May and consists of three different ten week internship rotations, as well as classroom activities that engage students in the development of employment “soft skills”. Project SEARCH interns learn transferable skills that can be applied in a variety of different settings. Interns are grateful to Portsmouth Hospital for the opportunity to intern and are eager to apply their skills in new and exciting work environments after graduation.

What is the Project SEARCH Business Advisory Council?

The Project SEARCH Business Advisory Council is a group of industry professionals dedicated to assisting Project SEARCH students by providing professional advice, support, and networking connections to assist student graduates in obtaining competitive employment. Members meet every other month between September to April to discuss student development, discuss industry hiring trends, identify potential businesses to develop new internship sites, and discuss ways they can promote the mission of Project SEARCH.

Seacoast Project SEARCH would like to thank our current BAC members including: Sharon Harris, Lisa Serling, Mark Sullivan, Lin Tamulonis, Nick Toumpas.

If you’re a member of the business community, and/or have good connections to the community at large and are interested in joining our BAC, contact Todd Wormstead at twormstead@communitypartnersnh.org.

Interning in the Operating Room

Project SEARCH is excited to introduce our newest internship at Portsmouth Regional Hospital. This year interns have the opportunity to intern in the position of Assistive Support Personnel in the Operating Room. Interns tasks include assisting in room turnover between cases and assisting in maintaining adequate inventory of clinical/nonclinical supplies. Thank you to the staff at the Operating Room for supporting Project SEARCH!

Supervisor Spotlight

Maryellen Valhos has been an excellent supervisor to many Project SEARCH interns over the years at the Infusion Center. We have appreciated her commitment to the program, honest feedback, and endless patience.

How long have you been a Project SEARCH supervisor?

“I have been a Project Search supervisor since the program began at Portsmouth Hospital.”

Why do you do it?

“I do it because I love the opportunities this program gives to the students….Every person should have the opportunity to have a job they love and be successful at it.”

What is the best part about being a supervisor?

“Graduation. We get to see the full growth of the students....They are so proud that they are graduating. I cry every year.”

Any tips for new supervisors or people considering becoming a Project SEARCH supervisor?

“Please treat the student the same as an employee. Hold them to the same standards you would hold an employee. Give positive feedback. .. Be patient.”
Intern testimonials

“I’m thankful for Project SEARCH teaching me the necessary job skills to gain employment like professionalism, physical endurance, and communicating with others” - Anthony

“I like coming here because it builds job experience and opens up new opportunities.” - Ryan

“I like coming in everyday and seeing classmates. This program helps you to build your work ethic.” - Alex

“ I have learned how to be flexible and that every job can be different.” - Randy

Want to learn more about Project SEARCH?
Contact Abby Olean at aolean@ecsnh.edu