



Project SEARCH® was founded in 1996 by Erin Riehle, who was ER Director at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Project SEARCH has grown to over 300 programs across 47 states and 4 countries.

Project SEARCH success rate, measured by the number of interns obtaining paid employment, at prevailing wage, at least 16 hrs./wk., within 1 year of completing their internships (as of October, 2015):

- ◇ 73% internationally
- ◇ 87% in Wisconsin



Project SEARCH Philosophy

People with disabilities have the right to choose a path toward education and employment. However, while the freedom of choice is given, the right to work is earned. Earning the right to work is dependent upon the student's preparation.

Stephen Simon, ADA Quarterly, Fall 1998



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Children's Hospital of Wisconsin YouTube link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=m3k2yMVtGLs



Career
Education

Competitive
Marketable
Transferrable
Work Skills





1 yr. internship program for individuals with disabilities whose goal is competitive employment.

Our program takes place at

Bellin/HSBS St. Vincent Hospital where total immersion in the workplace facilitates the teaching and learning process, while acquiring employability and marketable work skills. Interns participate in three 10-week internships to explore a variety of career paths. They work with a team including their families, a special education teacher, employment specialist, DVR and hospital staff, who work with them to create employment goals and provide support during this important transition time.



Project SEARCH is a collaboration with the following community partners:

- ◇ Bellin Health/HSBS St. Vincent Hospital-Host Site
- ◇ Local School Districts and CESA 7
- ◇ WI Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- ◇ ASPIRO Inc.
- ◇ Lakeland Care District, Care WI, IRIS
- ◇ ADRC



BENEFITS of the Project SEARCH model:

Benefits to the Students:

- ◇ Participate in a variety of internships
- ◇ Acquire competitive, transferable, marketable job skills
- ◇ Gain increased independence, confidence, self-esteem
- ◇ Obtain work based individualized coaching, instruction, feedback
- ◇ Develop linkages to adult service agencies

Benefits to the Business:

- ◇ Access to a new, diverse talent stream with skills that match labor needs
- ◇ Gain interns/employees with disabilities who serve as a role model for customers
- ◇ Access to a demographic of the economy with intense buying power
- ◇ Increased regional and national recognition through program marketing
- ◇ Dramatic increase in performance and retention in high-turnover, entry-level positions

