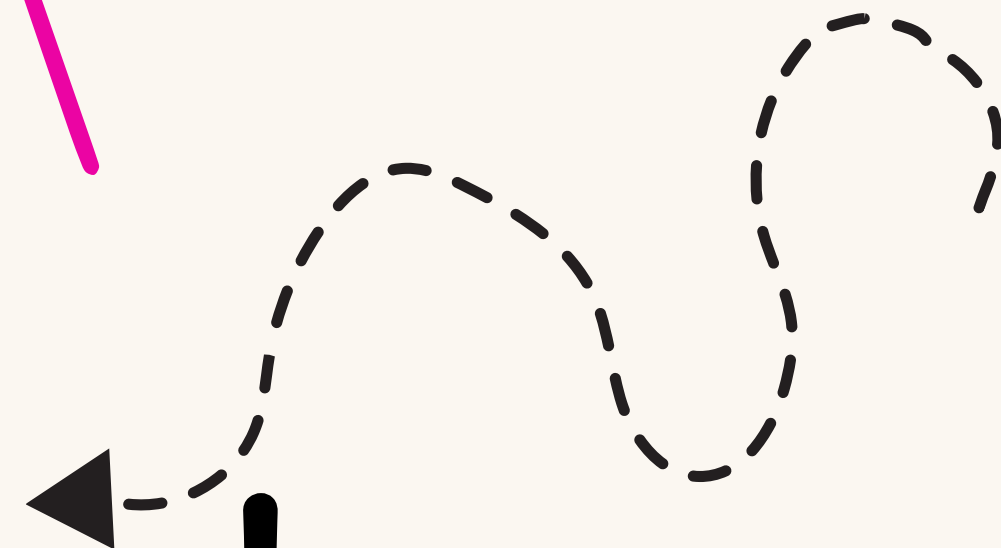


Building Community Partnerships through Project SEARCH



By Megan Kobliska and Jessica Wisneski

Introduction



Jessica Wisneski
Employment Specialist
JWisneski@trinityservices.org



Megan Kobliska
Instructor, LBS1 & Case Manager
MKoblisk@psd202.org

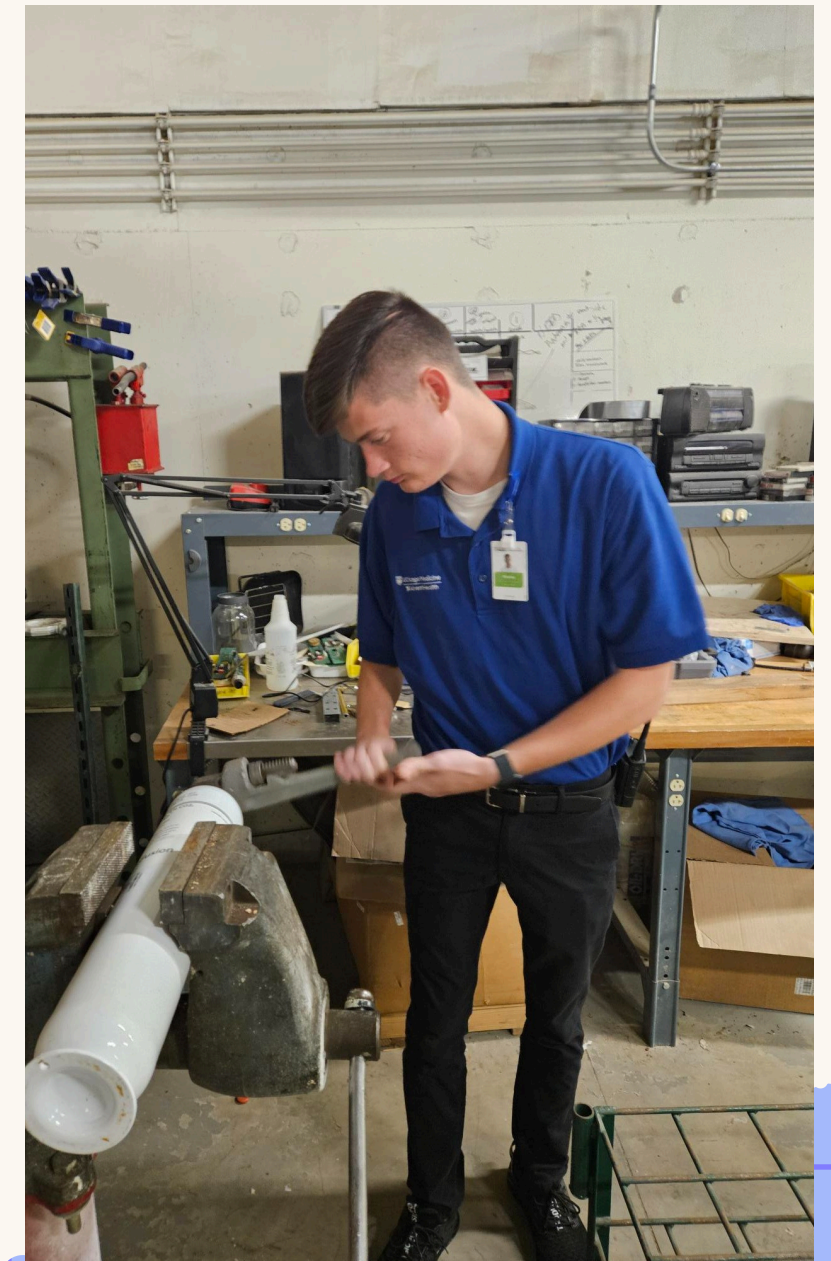
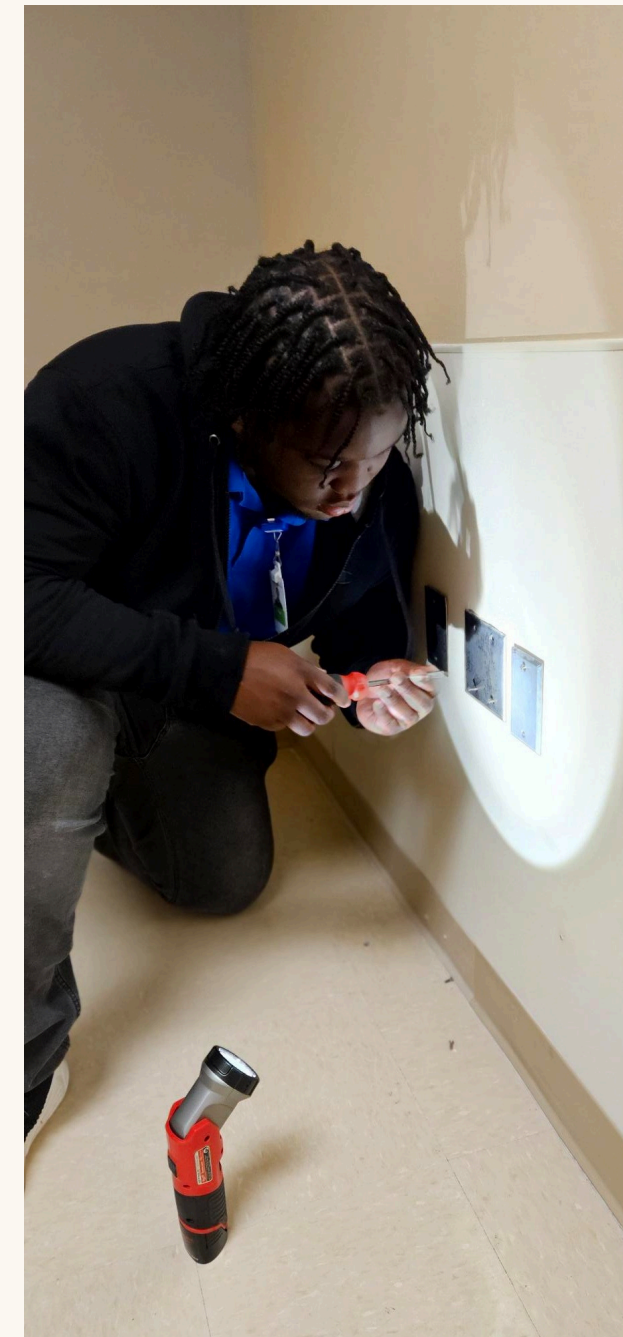
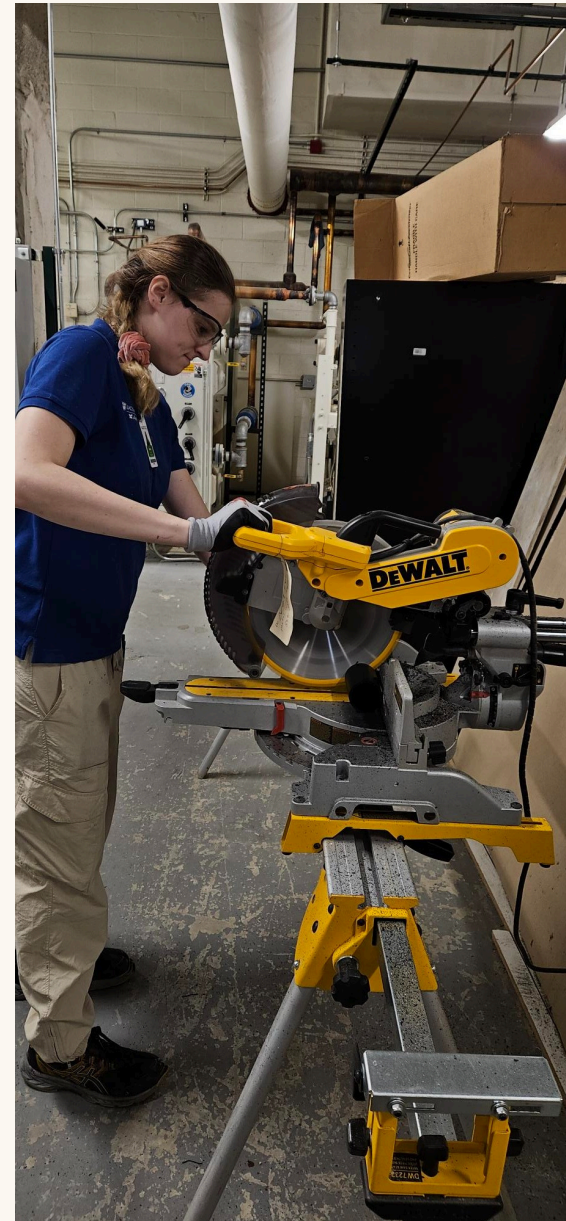


Transitioning from Education to Adult Services

The transition from the education system to Voc rehab services can be difficult to navigate.

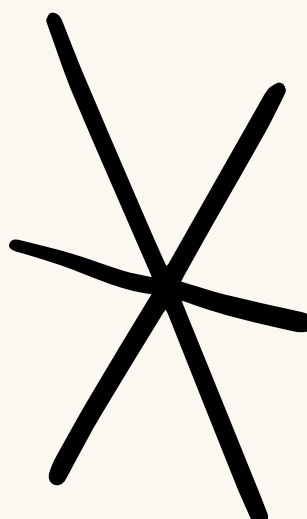
The introduction of CRPs, their staff, and the services they provide allow for a smoother transition into adult services.

Students understand expectations of the working world when they are challenged to complete realistic work tasks.





What is Project SEARCH?

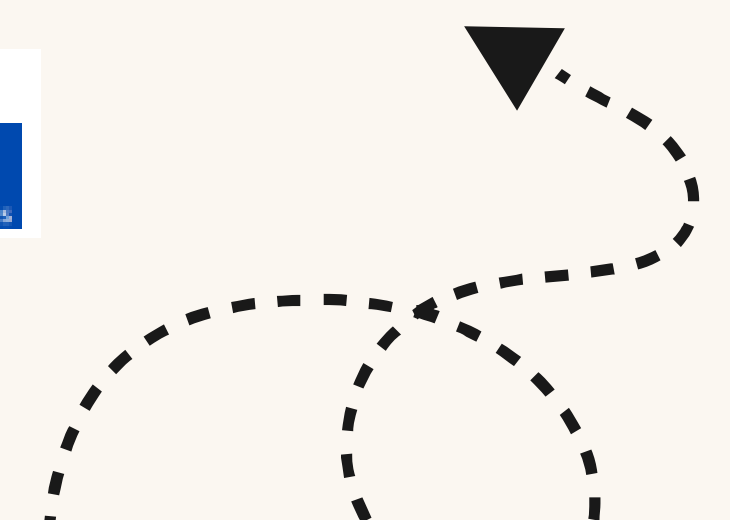


Project SEARCH is a business led one-year unpaid internship program for students with disabilities. Total work immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, job development, and hands-on training through three ten week internships at the host-site.

We are a program that brings together interns from Plainfield School District, DRS and Trinty Services to learn real work skills at UChicago Medicine, Bolingbrook.

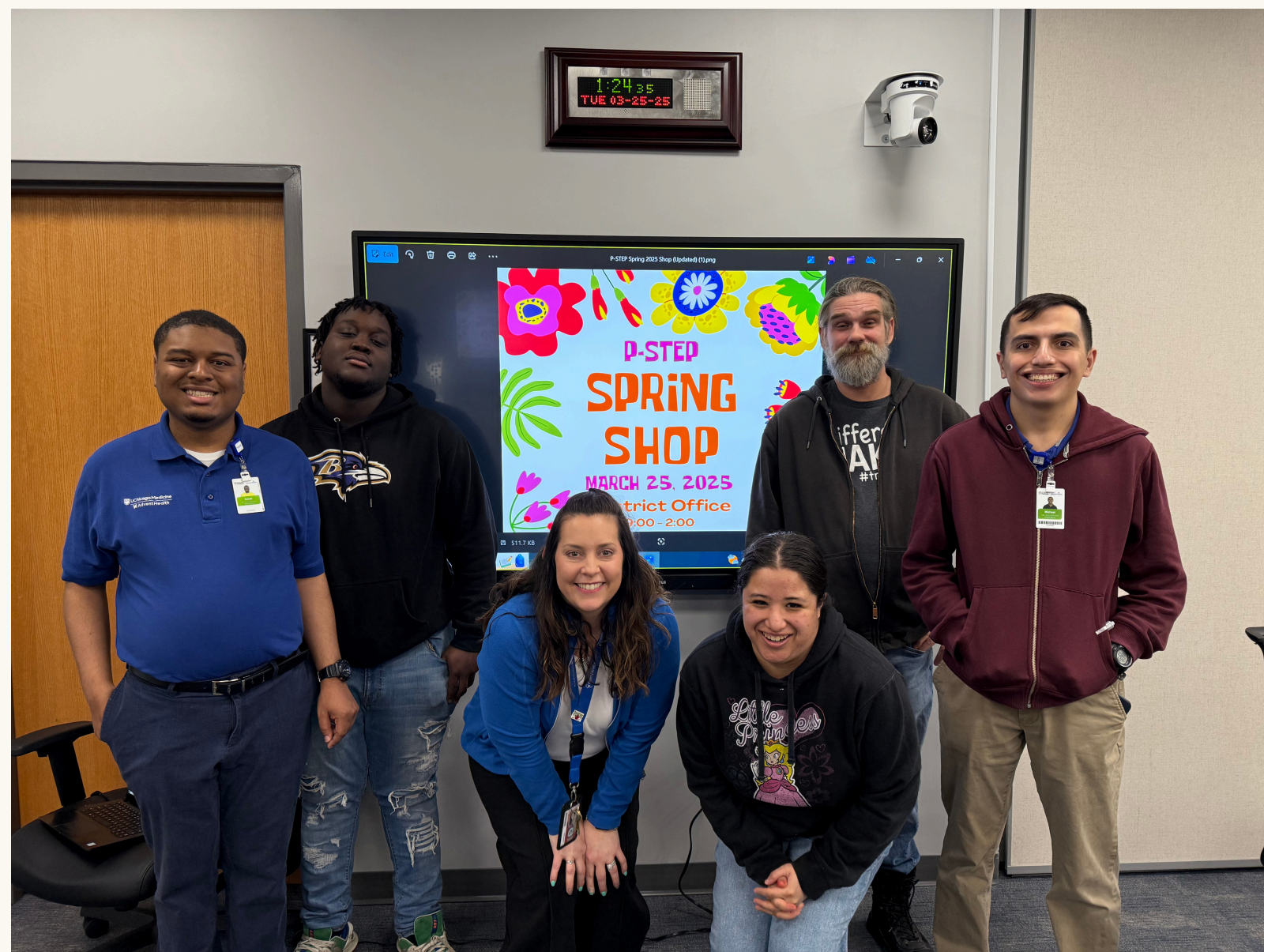
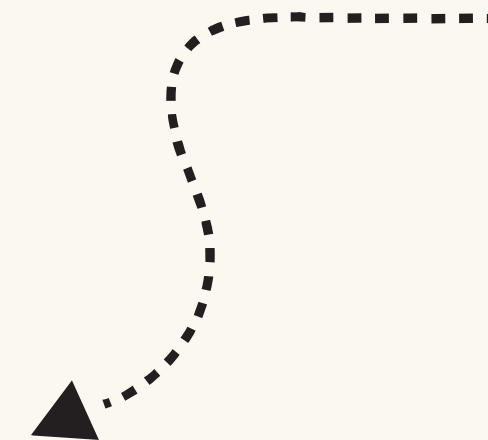


Project | SEARCH®





Project SEARCH International Statistics

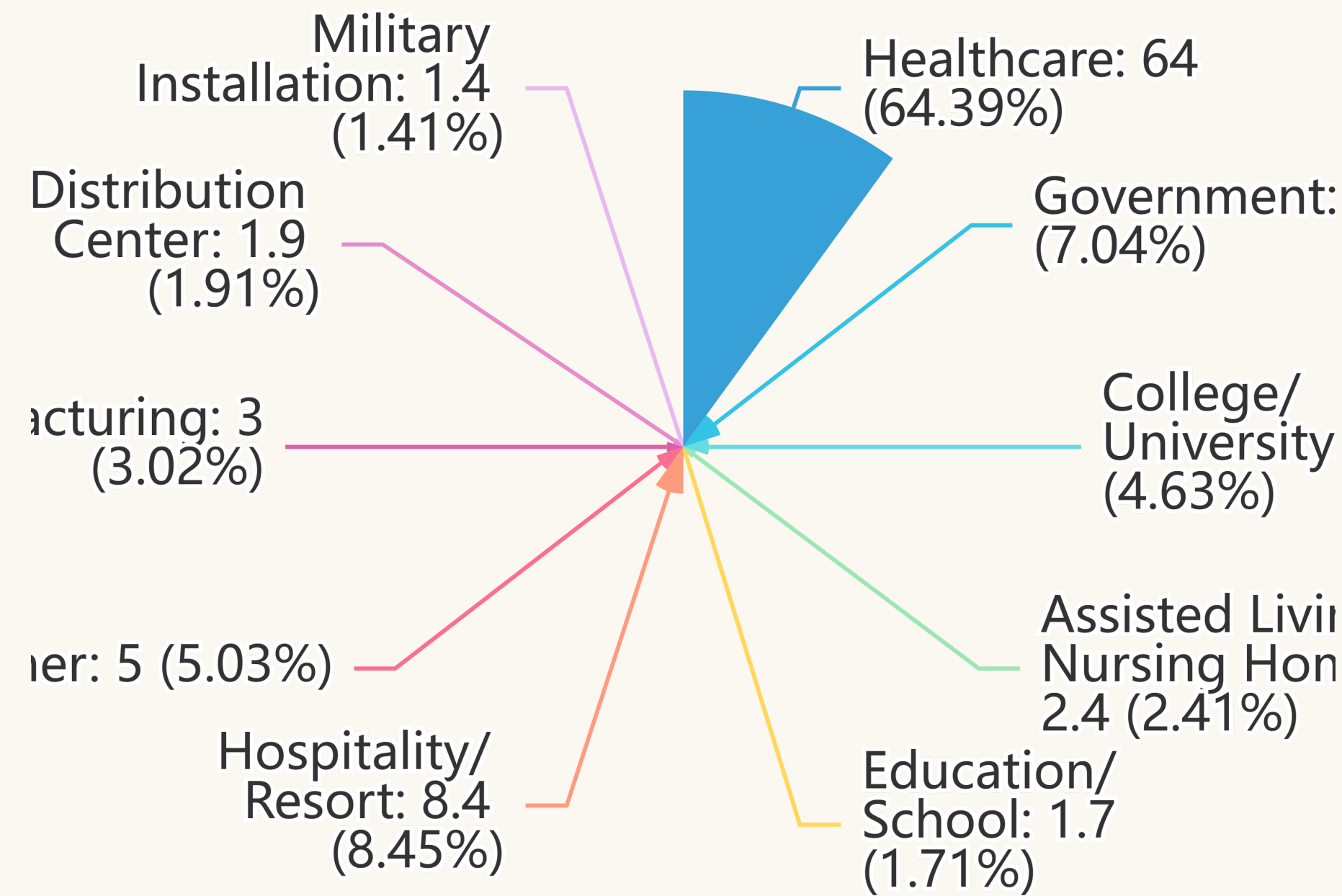


- 785 sites, 47 US states, 51 new sites in USA last year!
- 9 Countries, (Example: 11 sites in England, 16 Scotland, 16 in Canada)
- 49,054 interns served
- Students with a variety of disabilities participate (Autism 38%, Mental health 3%, ID 33%, SLD 14%, OHI 6%, Deaf/Visual/Hearing/Blind 2%, Speech/Language 1%, TBI 1%, Orthopedic 1%)



Host Businesses:

Host Business Type



Started at Cincinnati Children's after a partnership was built naturally between a Susie (teacher) and Erin (nurse)

The collaboration turned out to be life changing!



Criteria for Success

- Interns seek positions in an integrated setting, non-seasonal, 16 hours per week, and standard minimum wage
- Outcome data is reported to Project SEARCH yearly
- Program Length 9 months (School year)
- If needed, 9 additional months for Job Development
- Illinois: 2023-2024 School year
 - 96% Completion Rate (completed Project SEARCH school year)
 - 69% interns employed
 - 61% interns employed according to the criteria
 - UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Bolingbrook 6/7 86% successfully employed
 - Scan QR code for more Stats





Student interns must...

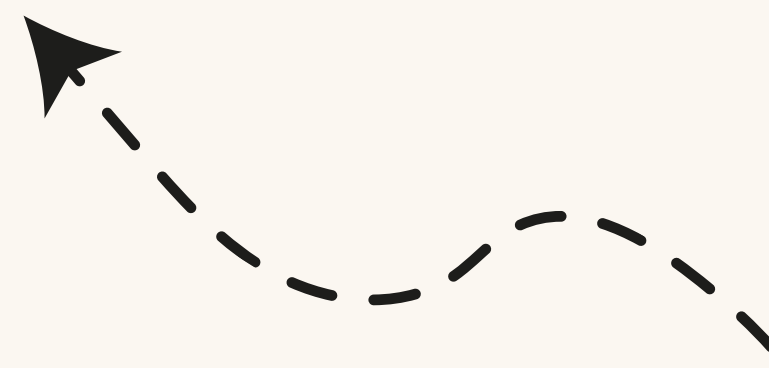
- 1 have an active IEP, complete an application & interview
- 2 have a desire to work.
- 3 have age appropriate hygiene and abide by host site rules
- 4 follow host site expectations (wear PPE & uniform, work appropriate conversations, etc.)
- 5 provide their own transportation to and from the host site.



Applications
due March
25th

Interviews
April 9th

May
Acceptance
Letters



Project SEARCH Schedule



7:50: Arrive onsite

8:00–8:50: Classroom instruction


9:00–10:50: Morning Internship

11:00–11:30: Lunch

11:35–2:00: Afternoon Internship

2:05–2:30: Daily Reflection

2:30: Dismissal



Classroom Instruction: lessons range from job readiness, positive work habits, resume & job development, interviewing, evaluations, and communicating effectively in the workplace.

*Interns are supported by Job Coaches throughout their internships.



We collaborate with host site Department Mentors to ensure the interns are always in a supportive environment.

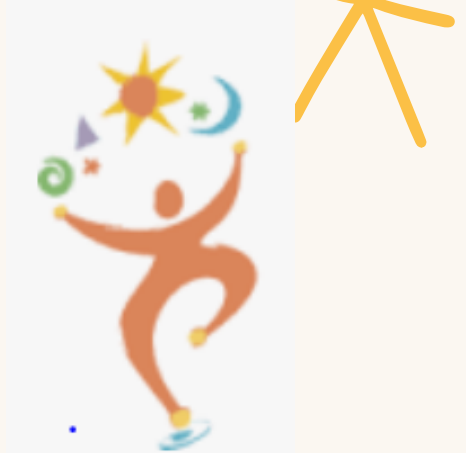
The Department Mentor is a person who works at the host site and assists the student with their tasks

Coached by Employment Specialist, Job Coach, and Instructor. Build natural support with Department Mentor.

INTERNSHIPS



- INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
- SAME DAY SURGERY
- EVS- ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
- MAINTENANCE
- CAFETERIA
- CANCER INFUSION CENTER
- OB/MOTHER BABY
- MATERIALS MANAGEMENT
- PATIENT TRANSPORT
- STARBUCKS BARISTA
- VALLET
- TRAY PASS
- EMERGENCY ROOM
- MEDICAL SURGICAL STOCER



INTERNSHIPS



Mentors are host-site staff that work alongside interns to provide supervision and training to interns.

CELEBRATE SUCCESSES!



END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION AT THE ROXY, LOCKPORT.
SHORT SPEECH OF APPRECIATION, CERTIFICATES AND SNACKS.
INVITE FAMILIES AND FORMER TEACHERS TO CELEBRATE EACH
INTERNS'S SUCCESS.

ALSO, PROMOTE THE PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Collaboration

An Employment Specialist from Trinity Services will speak to PSD202 educators about services provided and different opportunities for students.

While job readiness is the focal point of these meetings, PSD202 educators are also made aware of other services such as housing, counseling, and day programs.

The goal is to ensure young people with disabilities have as much support as possible when they transition out of school district services.



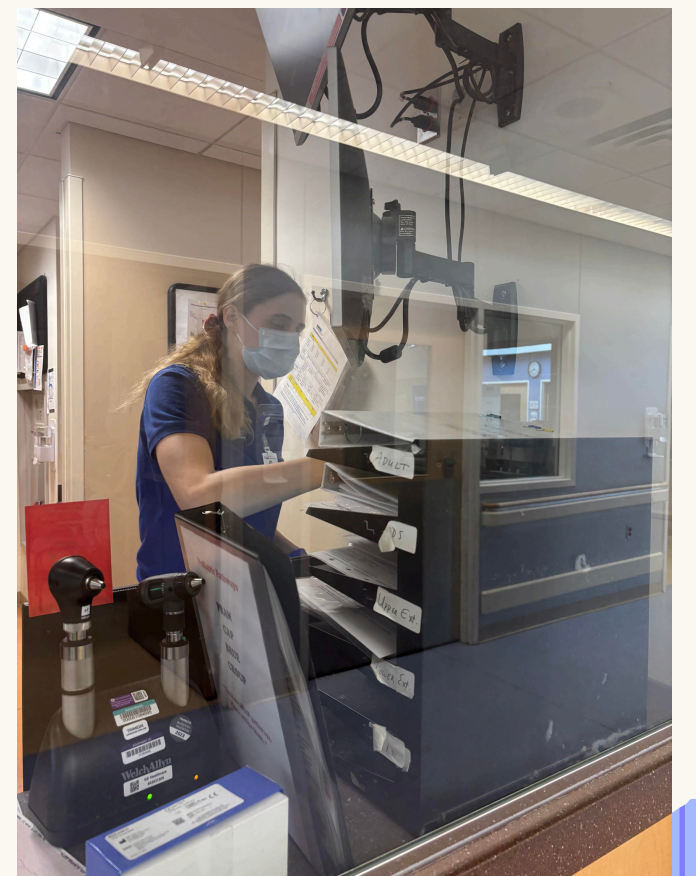
Limitations

- Cooperation from Host Site
 - Staffing changes can impact internships
 - Communication from Business Liason is essential
- Transportation
 - Students must find their own transportation to and from the Host site.
- Agency and school district staffing
 - Full time job coach is very helpful
- Partnership between CRP, Instructor and DRS is essential to successful program



Recruiting

- Attend department meetings at all high schools to educate staff on program
- Invite district and school administrators to visit, tour site
- Attend events that parents and potential students may attend, Board with display
- Hold Open House in January
- Work closely with Vocational Coordinators to discuss recruiting
- Coordinate with Business Liason to reserve space for Interviews and Open House
- One Pager See QR code
- Video [HERE](#)



Participate in Community Events!




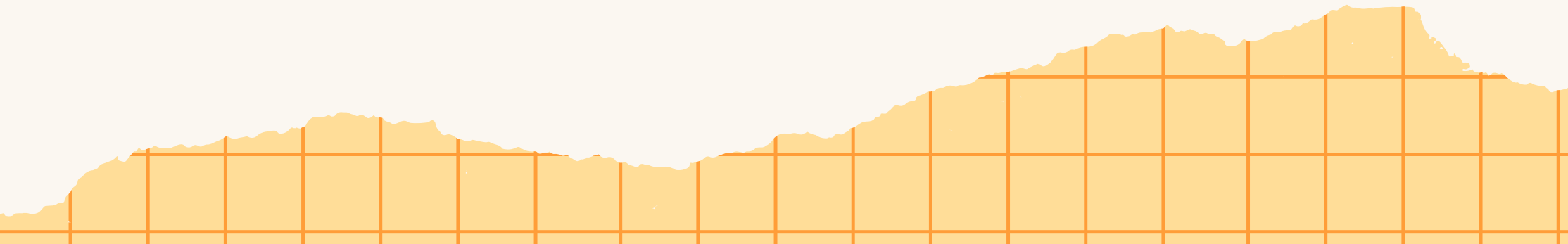
Field Trip of Trinity Servies CIILA home and Horse Ranch



How Our Program Works



Our success is dependent on our collaboration and learning of each other's roles.

- The Employment Specialist/Skills Instructor assists with lessons.
 - The Instructor assists with job development and career readiness.
 - The Employment Specialist will attend IEPs while the Instructor will search for and assist with job applications.
 - Together, we teach job readiness skills and provide job coaching as the students learn their tasks in their rotations.
 - We view our program as a great opportunity to work together to best support people with disabilities.
- 
- 



PROGRESS UPDATE



- EACH INTERNSHIP IS 10 WEEKS LONG
- AFTER 3-4 WEEKS OF WORKING
- INTERN, PARENTS, INSTRUCTOR, EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST AND DRS COUNSELOR MEET TO DISCUSS PROGRESS
- CALLED EMPLOYMENT MEETINGS
- TEMPLATE HERE
- VIRTUALLY, OR IN PERSON
- RESPONSIBILITIES, PROGRESS, GOALS AND PHOTOS OF INTERNS WORKING

GREAT SUCCESS!!



Integrated Competative Community Employment is the Goal for all Project SEARCH students.

Interns use indeed.com to search and save jobs then the Employment Specialist applies to positions.

One week after applying students call to follow up on applications.

Take action!

Job training activities in
transition programs should
reflect real world employment
skills.



COLLABORATION

- Branch Day Program
- CILA
- Strides Recreational Center
- Several Different Job Coaches get to know Project SEARCH interns
- Community Services Night
- PStep Open House
- Pop-Up Shop Sales
- PD to staff about Trinity Servies





Want to set up your own Project SEARCH?



Project SEARCH

Complete this form or email:

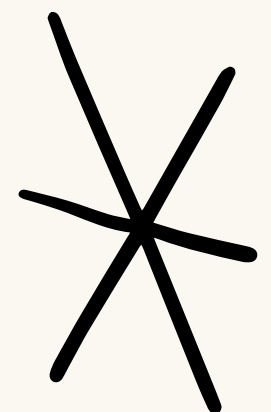
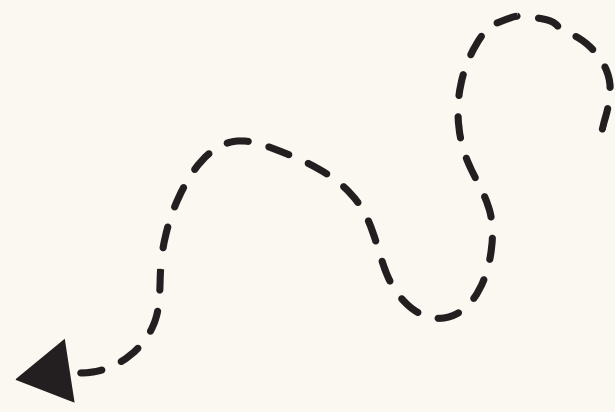
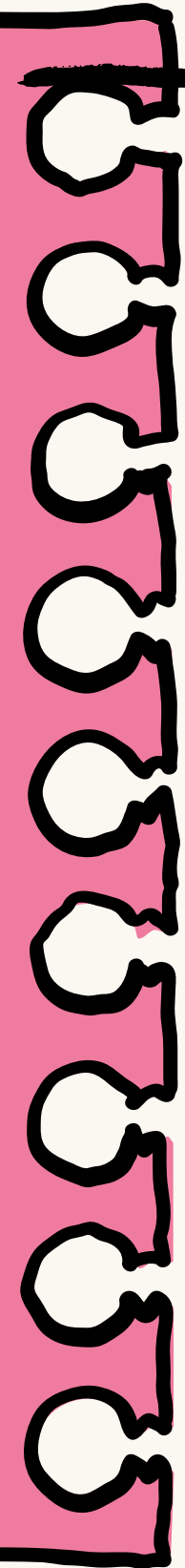
ProjectSEARCH@cchmc.org

Kristin Wagner

Illinois Statewide Coordinator for

Project SEARCH

Kristin.Wagner@illinois.gov



THANK
YOU!

