



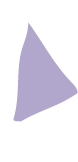
Project SEARCH

**Benefits**

**Internship training** experiences Competitive, transferable,

**2**

**1**

and **marketable job skills Increased independence, ** confidence and self-esteem

**3**

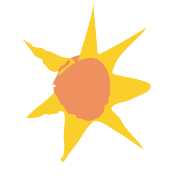
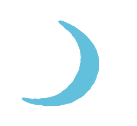
**Individualized coaching** on the job and feedback daily

**4**

**Building** personal and professional **relationships**

**5**

Participation in a curriculum focused on **soft skills required to maintain employment** in addition to financial literacy, health



and more

**6**









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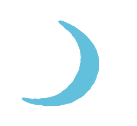
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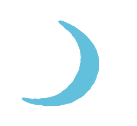
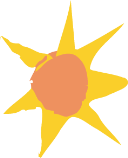
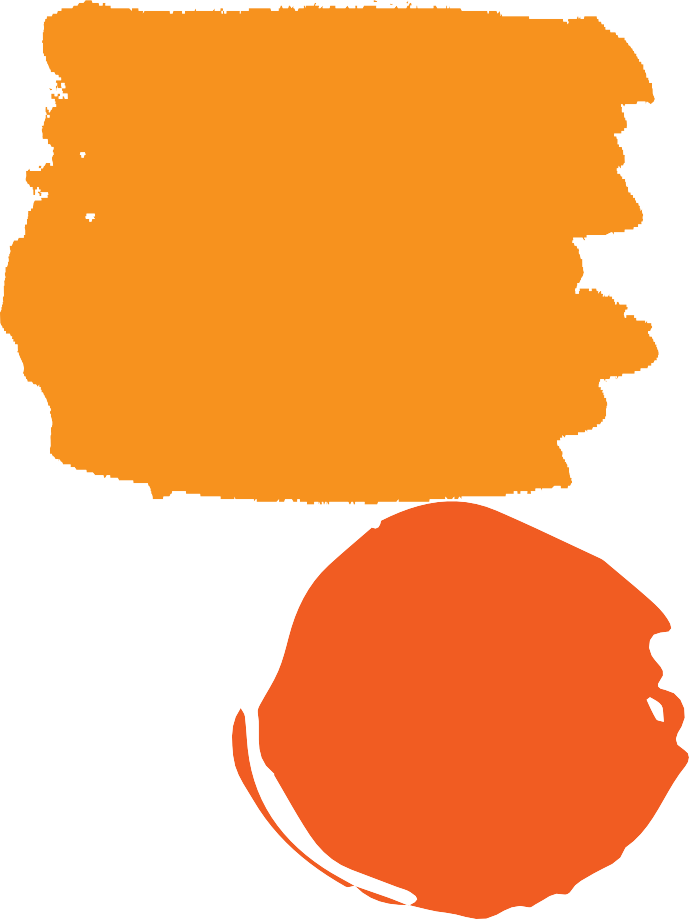
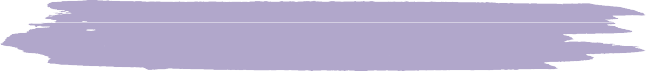
**Karen DiGangi**, OVR 871-4551







# A unique, school-to-work transition program for students with learning disabilities and autism



Project SEARCH is a **one-year internshp program** for students with disabilities.



What is **Project SEARCH?**

It is targeted for students whose goal is competitive employment in the community.

Opportunities are very diverse and include health care, universities, manufacturing facilities and more.

Students participate in **three paid internships to explore a variety of career paths.**

Each student works with a team that includes his or her family, an instructor, job coaches and

host business mentors to

**create an employment goal** and to support

the student during the transition from school to work.

# “I have become more independent since

I started Project SEARCH.”

2016/2017 Intern

The 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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**A typical day** includes:

**9:00 to 11:00**: Classroom instruction in employability and independent living skills.

### 11:00 to 2:00: Paid internship at a facility or department

**2:00 to 3:00** Classroom time to discuss and debrief

**Interns have lunch with colleagues** during their workday and participate in meetings and social events.

Outcome goal is **full time, paid employment**



Core Components of

**Project SEARCH**

**True co-production across partners** is essential

Business-led program requiring

**1**

**2**

**3**

### total immersion in the workplace

Focus on serving young adults with significant learning disabilities who will need to receive **follow-on services to retain employment**

**4**

Partners must provide a

### consistent on-site staff team

**5**

Each site has a **licensing agreement** with Project SEARCH

**6**