

## Project SEARCH completers working at Summa Health

Project SEARCH is a collaborative, site-based initiative located at Summa Health. Students receive employability skills training and career exploration services. Each student participates in three, 10-week rotations with the hospital and learn job skills.

During the 2019-2020 school year, new rotation sites were added, including Turfscape landscaping services, Virtue's Restaurant, Akron City Hospital gift shop and Service Ambassador. Other departments included Food and Nutrition, Laundry, Dietary Aide, Housekeeping, Shipping and Receiving, Distribution, Patient Transport, SP+ Parking, Disinfection Management Technologies (DMT) and Sterile Supply.

Seven of the 12 students completing Project SEARCH are working in competitive jobs. Students are employed at Summa Health in Patient Transport, Environmental, Laundry, Disinfection Management Technologies (DMT) and in Food and Nutrition. Others are working for the YMCA Hope Early Care and Education Center and in negotiation for a job with SP+ Parking Management.

Due to the pandemic and school closings, most students were not able to participate in their third rotation. One intern is completing her rotation over the summer and two will return first semester. All students, as well as Summa staff, will be recognized at a Project SEARCH Celebration next spring.

In the second year of a new initiative, potential students were invited to job shadow with current students. According to Coordinator **Carol Sayre**, next year Project SEARCH will expand its collaboration with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and a job skills trainer from Goodwill will work with students.



**Andrew McGraw, Tallmadge, is working in IT, Information Technologies.**



**Alex Winebrenner, Cuyahoga Falls, is a Food and Nutrition Captain.**



**Grace Culbertson, Woodridge, moved up to a full-time position in the laundry.**

**Taiya Brentzel, Stow-Munroe Falls, interviews with Nursing Manager Shauna Anderson.**

