



2023 Project SEARCH interns were celebrated by staff and their families at the conclusion of their internships in May 2023.

What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a collaborative, site-based initiative located at Summa Health. This program helps qualified students make a successful transition from school to the workforce by experiencing hands-on learning in real-world settings.

Student interns spend a school year rotating through two to three job experiences based on their interest and abilities. The rotations are designed to give students the opportunity to develop their workplace skills and prepare them for competitive employment. Job coaches also work with interns on daily living skills and personal finance.

Meet a completer



Emilee Gerstenslager (Cuyahoga Falls) is a 2023 Project SEARCH completer and is pictured with Project SEARCH staff at *Goodwill's 17th Annual Taste of Vintage* event. Emily was honored as the "Mission Moment of the Year" by

Goodwill for her accomplishments in her position as an Environmental Aide at Summa Health.

Learn more about Project SEARCH

An Open House/Information Session is held each February; contact your student's Intervention Specialist for more information.

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Scan to learn more about the Project SEARCH Timeline



SixDistrict
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Project | SEARCH

Six District Educational Compact

Cuyahoga Falls • Hudson • Kent • Stow-Munroe Falls
Tallmadge • Woodridge





Griffin Snider and Tyler Mansfield (both from Stow-Munroe Falls) working in Disinfection Management Technology



Brandon Haby (Cuyahoga Falls) interning in Food Services



Paige Leslie (Stow-Munroe Falls) interning in Environmental Services



Ricky Shaffer (Cuyahoga Falls) in the Laundry Department



Kaniesha White (Woodridge) working as a Patient Transport Assistant

Job coaches & community partnerships

Job coaches are available to help Project SEARCH students learn their jobs and improve their skills, while promoting independence. Throughout the day, they move from student to student offering support and coaching. Community and Workforce Development partners include the Board of Developmental Disabilities, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD-BVR-BVSI), Kent State University Transition Collaborative, Coleman Behavioral Health, Metro Regional Transit Authority, Goodwill Industries of Akron and Vocera Communications.

Our partnership with Summa Health

In 2005, the Six District Educational Compact started its collaboration with Summa Health as the two groups implemented this internationally recognized model, first started at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in 1996. Visit www.projectsearch.us for more information. Over the past five years, approximately 85% of interns gain employment at the completion of their internship. Many completers are employed at Summa Health or other partner community businesses.

Coordinator works with families

Project SEARCH's Coordinator works with each student, family and district Intervention Specialist to find just the right work rotations. As the year progresses, the Coordinator helps the students explore the possibilities of employment and discusses how to access adult service agencies when appropriate.

Department job rotation descriptions

Distribution/Receiving:

- Assist in unloading delivery trucks
- Check-in and process items received
- Deliver boxes to various areas of the hospital using a cart

Disinfection Management Technology (DMT):

- Inventory and restock carts and intubation kits
- Deliver all non-critical equipment to departments
- Sterilize hospital equipment for restocking

Environmental Services:

- Housekeeping duties including patient rooms, doctor offices, and visitor areas
- Complete Environmental Services Training Program to learn the 7-step cleaning process required by Summa Health

Food & Nutrition Support Aide:

- Deliver food trays to patients
- Read food tickets and place correct items on trays
- Dish room duties

Laundry:

- Take inventory and stock laundry carts
- Collect soiled laundry in bags

Patient Transport Assistant:

- Assist in transporting patients and STAT specimen runs to appropriate laboratories or departments
- Learn and operate the department's job scheduling system
- Provide appropriate conversation and body language to assist patients' comfortability

Service Ambassador:

- Greet patients as they enter
- Place visitor and patient information into the database
- Escort patients and family members to designated areas
- Use a wheelchair to take a patient or visitor requiring assistance