

Project SEARCH is an employment training program for individuals with significant disabilities that is nationally recognized for innovative practices and a unique employer-driven model. This program began at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and has been replicated in more than forty states across the country, primarily in the hospital setting.

Project SEARCH | Arizona High School Transition Program (2010/2011)

About the Program

The Project SEARCH High School Transition program is a nine month educational program for students with developmental disabilities in their last year of high school. The program will take place entirely at University Physicians Healthcare (UPH) Hospital where there is total immersion in the workplace through teaching, learning, continuous feedback and application of new skills. The goal for each student is competitive employment in the community using the skills they acquire at UPH Hospital.

Who Is Eligible?

Pima County students who meet the following criteria

- Is at least 18 years of age and agrees to accept high school diploma (from home school district) upon completion of program
- Has completed necessary credits for graduation but still has significant transition related goals to meet on his/her IEP
- Is willing to utilize (and train for, if necessary) public transportation to access Project SEARCH and competitive employment
- Can maintain appropriate behavior and social skills in the workplace without immediate supervision
- Is able to communicate effectively (may be other than verbal) and take direction from supervisors
- Will benefit from participation in a variety of internships
- Has significant barriers to competitive employment
- Has a strong desire to work competitively at the end of the Project SEARCH program

<http://projectsearch.sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu>

Project | SEARCH



Arizona

Partners:

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES DDD)

Linkages

Pima County Joint Technological Education District (JTED)

Rehabilitation Services Administration (DES RSA)

Easter Seals Blake Foundation (SAGE)

Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

TUSD's Community Transition Programs

UPH Hospital

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Program Structure

- Students build communication and problem-solving skills, as well as job specific skills, through worksite rotations.
- After orientation to worksite protocols, culture, and facilities, students complete 3 rotations during the program year. The student, instructor, and job coach work together to choose worksites based on student's interest and skills.
- Typical day: Morning starts with 1 hour of classroom instruction in employability and independent living skills, followed by 2.5 hours at the worksite rotation, lunch with peers, another 2.5 hours at worksite rotation, and ends with .5 hour of reflection session with instructor and other students.
- Time spent in a work experience may be flexible. Students may spend several weeks to several months at each worksite depending on factors such as the complexity of the job, tasks to be learned, and benefits to the student.

Partners

Pima County Joint Technological Education District (JTED)

Project Role: School District

Pima County JTED delivers premier career and technical education (CTE) in partnership with business, industry, and community stakeholders. Approved by voters in November of 2006 (Proposition 400), JTED serves high school age students (15-21) attending private, charter and traditional public schools throughout Pima County. JTED began operations on July 1, 2007, and currently serves over 18,500 students throughout Pima County, Arizona.

<http://www.pimajted.org>

University Physicians Healthcare (UPH) Hospital

Project Role: Host Business

Southern Arizona's newest academic medical facility, University Physicians Healthcare (UPH) Hospital provides patients with direct access to the expertise, groundbreaking research and latest treatments of The University of Arizona College of Medicine. The comprehensive medical center and hospital feature nationally and internationally recognized clinics, programs, and UA faculty physicians.

<http://www.uph.org/Hospitals.aspx>

Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

Project Role: Coordinating Agency & Liaison to Project SEARCH National

The Sonoran UCEDD envisions Arizona as a community benefiting from the full participation of all members, with recognition of the strengths brought by diversity in abilities, culture, age, interests and life experience. Its mission is to ensure full community participation by individuals with developmental disabilities through its interdisciplinary training program, research, technical assistance, and exemplary services and model program development.

<http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/>

Other Project SEARCH | AZ Partners

Linkages

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TUSD's Community Transition Programs

Rehabilitation Services Administration (DES RSA)

To receive a student application for the 2010/2011 program, please call 520.626.0677.

