



## Key Messages for Target Audiences

# Project | SEARCH<sup>®</sup>

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- The goal of Project SEARCH is to help the student intern gain competitive employment in an integrated setting. Employment in an integrated setting (that is, working alongside coworkers with and without disabilities) is:
  - Year-round work (not seasonal employment)
  - 18 hours/week or more
  - Minimum wage or higher
- Project SEARCH is a business-led program. This means that students learn relevant, marketable skills while immersed in the business and those businesses are active partners, participating without subsidies.
- True collaboration among partner agencies is essential. This leads to seamless transition services and sustainability through braided funding streams. True collaboration requires a willingness among partner organizations to share resources and adapt policies and procedures. The following are active partners:
  - Businesses*
  - Education / Schools*
  - Vocational Rehabilitation*
  - Community Rehabilitation*
  - Providers*
  - Long-term Support Agencies*
  - Families*
  - Social Security Administration*
- The Program focus is on serving young adults with a variety of developmental disabilities (acquired before age 22 such as intellectual disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, orthopedic impairment, autism, etc.).
- Program participants experience total immersion in the workplace. Student interns are on site at the business each school day for a minimum of six hours for an entire academic year.
- The partners provide consistent on-site staff including a special education teacher from the school district and job coaches (usually funded by Vocational Rehabilitation and a supported employment agency and/or the school).
- Project SEARCH graduates receive effective follow-along services to retain employment.
- Each Project SEARCH program site has a licensing agreement signed with Project SEARCH Cincinnati through Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.