



# Check it out!

## Project | SEARCH<sup>®</sup>

### A new program for transition students in Berrien County!

#### What is Project SEARCH?

The Project SEARCH High School Transition Program is a unique, business led, one year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations.

#### Where will the program take place?

The program offered in Berrien County is housed at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

#### Who is eligible to participate?

Students who are 18 years old or older, have an IEP and a desire to work are able to apply to participate in the program. Access to reliable transportation is essential to be successful in Project SEARCH.

#### What are the goals of the program?

The goal for each student participant is competitive employment. The program provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youths with significant disabilities make successful transitions from school to productive adult life. The Project SEARCH model involves an extensive period of training and career exploration, innovative adaptations, long-term job coaching, and continuous feedback from teachers, job coaches, and employers. As a result, at the completion of the training program, students with significant intellectual disabilities can be employed in nontraditional, complex and rewarding jobs.

*For questions, please contact Craig Blasko, Berrien RESA Supervisor for Ancillary Programs, at [craig.blasko@berrienresa.org](mailto:craig.blasko@berrienresa.org) or at (269) 471-7725 ext. 1357. Open House time or location changes will be posted on Berrien RESA's website ([www.berrienresa.org](http://www.berrienresa.org)).*

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