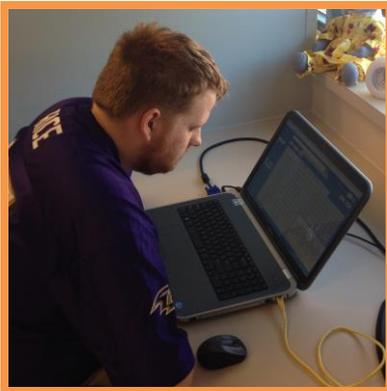




Our Story



Sixteen years ago, in 1996, while working as the Director of the Emergency Department at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Erin Riehle was frustrated with the high turnover rate in entry-level jobs involving restocking supplies. While working to identify a solution to the high turnover rate, Cincinnati Children’s adopted a major diversity initiative, taking a policy statement from the American College of Healthcare Executives, which reads, “Healthcare organizations must lead their communities in increasing employment opportunities for qualified persons with disabilities and advocate on behalf of their employment to other organizations.” Erin wondered if people with disabilities could fill these entry level jobs. With an idea in mind, Erin turned to Great Oaks Career Campuses and the Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disability Services and asked if this job service was a possibility. A partnership evolved, and together these organizations filled a handful of jobs in Cincinnati Children’s Emergency Department; later this concept evolved into the comprehensive program model, now called Project SEARCH.



Project SEARCH has grown from one original program site at Cincinnati Children’s to approximately 250 sites across 40 states and four countries. Eight Project SEARCH sites are located in Maryland and include: Anne Arundel Medical Center, BWI Hilton and Aloft Hotels, Montgomery County Government, National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, University of Maryland, University of Maryland Medical Center, and Union Memorial Hospital. A new site is being launched in 2014 in Howard County, Maryland. The Project SEARCH community partners in Howard County include:

- ❖ Howard County Government – Host Business
- ❖ Howard County Public School System
- ❖ The Arc of Howard County
- ❖ Howard County Autism Society
- ❖ Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services



If you are interested in learning more about Project SEARCH for your child, mark your calendar for the **Howard County Project SEARCH Information Night:**

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2014
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Howard County Public School System
Board of Education Central Office
10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Have questions or need additional information?
Call the Office of Special Education at 410-313-5350.



Project | SEARCH



Howard County Government Project SEARCH Program

The Project SEARCH High School Transition Program is a one-year internship program for students with disabilities on the certificate track who are in their last year of high school. It targets students whose goal is competitive employment. This program will take place in a county government setting where total immersion in the workplace facilitates the teaching and learning process as well as the acquisition of employability and marketable work skills. Students participate in three internships to explore a variety of career paths. The students work with a team that includes their family, a special education teacher and The Arc of Howard County to create an employment goal and support the student during this important transition from school to work.

BENEFITS of the Project SEARCH Model in Howard County:

Benefits to the Students and their families:

- ❖ Participate in a variety of internships within the Howard County Government
- ❖ Acquire competitive, transferable and marketable job skills that will assist them in gaining and maintaining employment upon graduation
- ❖ Gain increased independence, confidence, and self esteem
- ❖ Obtain work-based individualized coaching, instruction and feedback
- ❖ Develop linkages to Vocational Rehabilitation and other adult service agencies

Benefits to the Howard County service organizations:

- ❖ Transforms Howard County into a more inclusive community for individuals with disabilities
- ❖ Meets the goals and objectives of the Howard County Transition Council

Benefits to the Howard County Government and other local businesses:

- ❖ Access to a new, diverse, talent stream with skills that match labor needs
- ❖ Gain interns/employees with disabilities who serve as role models for customers
- ❖ Access to a demographic of the economy with an increasing sense of buying power
- ❖ Increased regional and national recognition through marketing of this unique program
- ❖ Increased performance and retention in some high-turnover, entry-level positions

ENTRANCE CRITERIA

- ❖ Be at least 18 years of age and entering last year in the Howard County Public School System
- ❖ Meet eligibility requirements for DORS (vocational rehabilitation)
- ❖ Meet eligibility requirements for the Developmental Disabilities Administration
- ❖ Have independent personal hygiene and grooming skills
- ❖ Have independent daily living skills
- ❖ Maintain appropriate behavior and social skills in the workplace or school setting
- ❖ Take direction from supervisors
- ❖ Be able to communicate effectively
- ❖ Demonstrate good attendance
- ❖ Be able to pass a drug screening, criminal background check and have up-to-date immunizations