

**DDS**



LARC's  
**Project SEARCH**  
at Charlotte  
Hungerford Hospital



Project  
SEARCH-  
An exciting  
opportunity  
offered by  
LARC

- A unique post-secondary training & internship program in Litchfield County
- PS is business led, 9-month internship program for individuals with disabilities
- Interns will complete 3 rotations at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital with main goal of gaining skills to obtain competitive employment
- Program involves instruction in employability skills & independent living skills, career exploration, long term job coaching with continuous feedback from special educator, skills trainer and mentors

# Who is eligible?

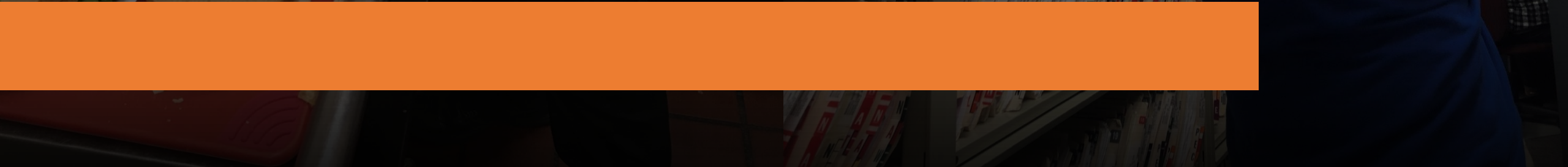
- \*Young adults with disabilities aged 18-35
- \*Reside in Northwestern CT
- \*In the process of completing or have already completed high school education
- \*Receiving DDS funding for employment services and/or have IEP
- \*Strong desire to work and demonstrate potential for competitive employment
- \*Ability to follow LARC & CHH Code of Conduct for behavior, attendance & work etiquette

# Typical Day

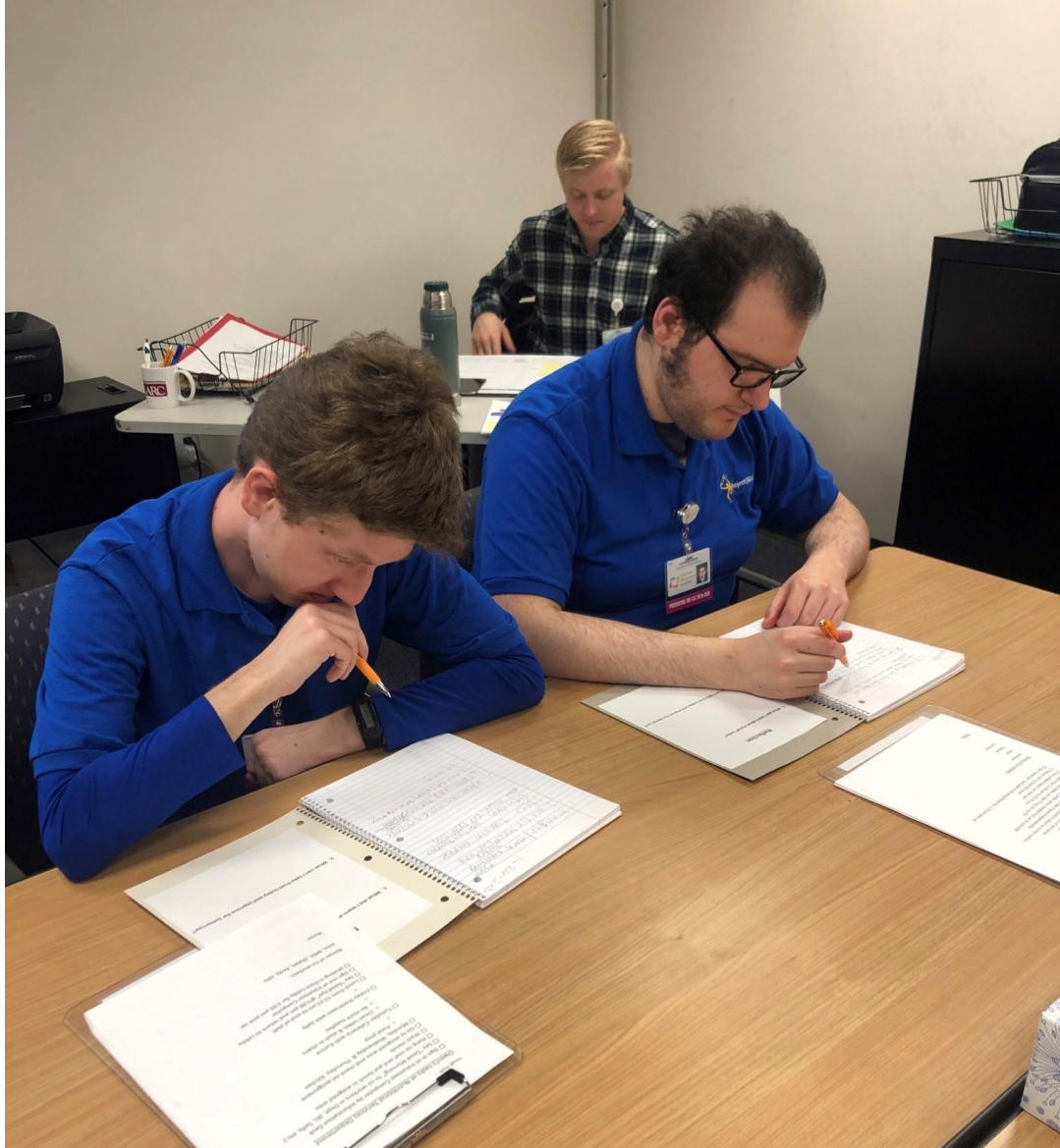
- 8:15 am-9:30 am Classroom Instruction at CHH
  - Employability and Independent Living Skills
  - Ex. Technology, Social Skills, Conflict Resolution, Self Advocacy, Financial, Resumes, Looking Professional, Workplace Safety...
- 9:30 am-1:30 pm Internship at CHH
  - Various Departments include Nutritional Services, Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Storeroom, Cardiology, Human Resources...
  - Lunch break
  - Teacher & Skills Trainer support intern and fade as intern gains independence
  - CHH Mentors provide guidance & feedback



# Internships



January 2020



Classroom time with Skills Trainer and Instructor

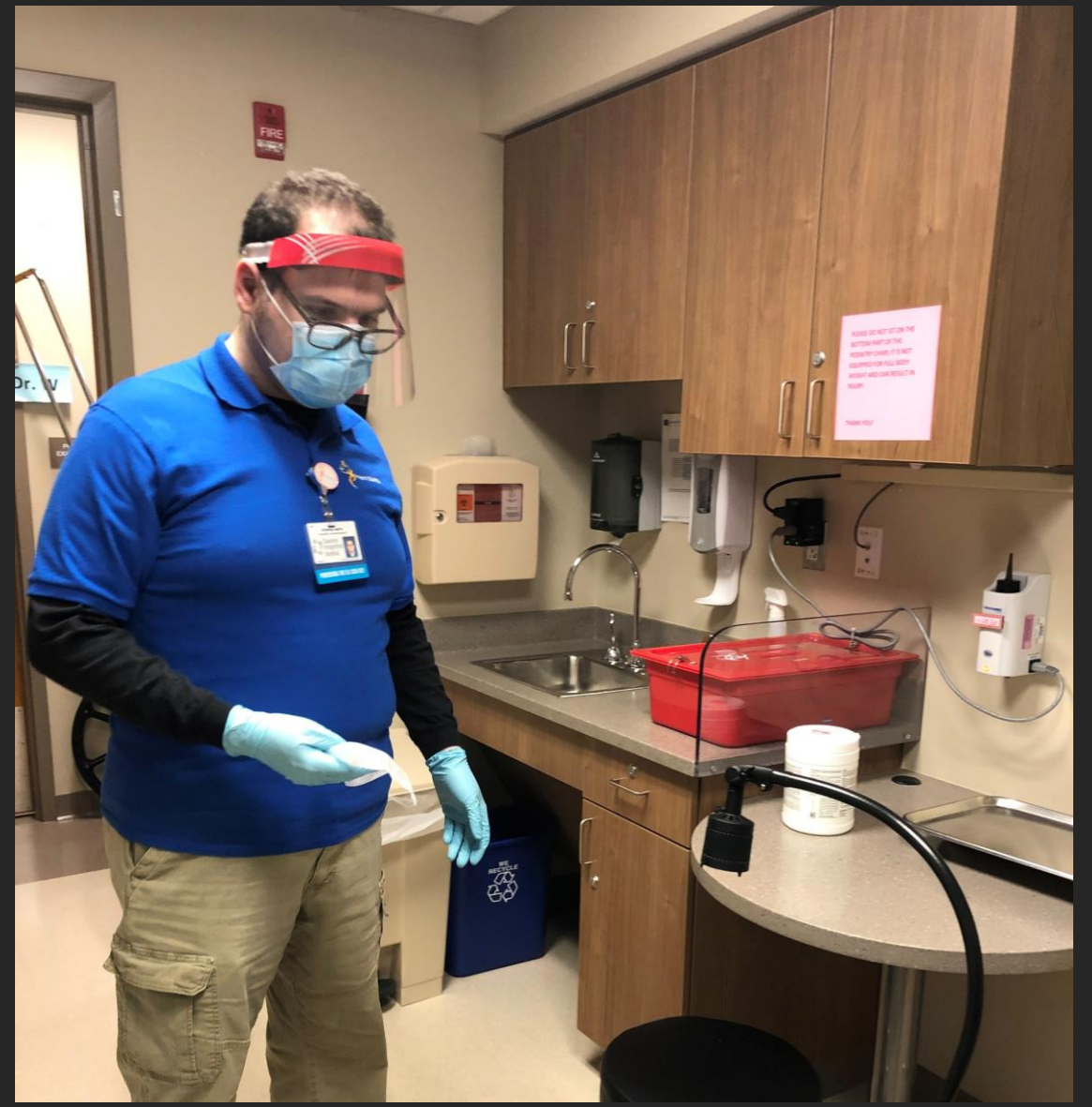
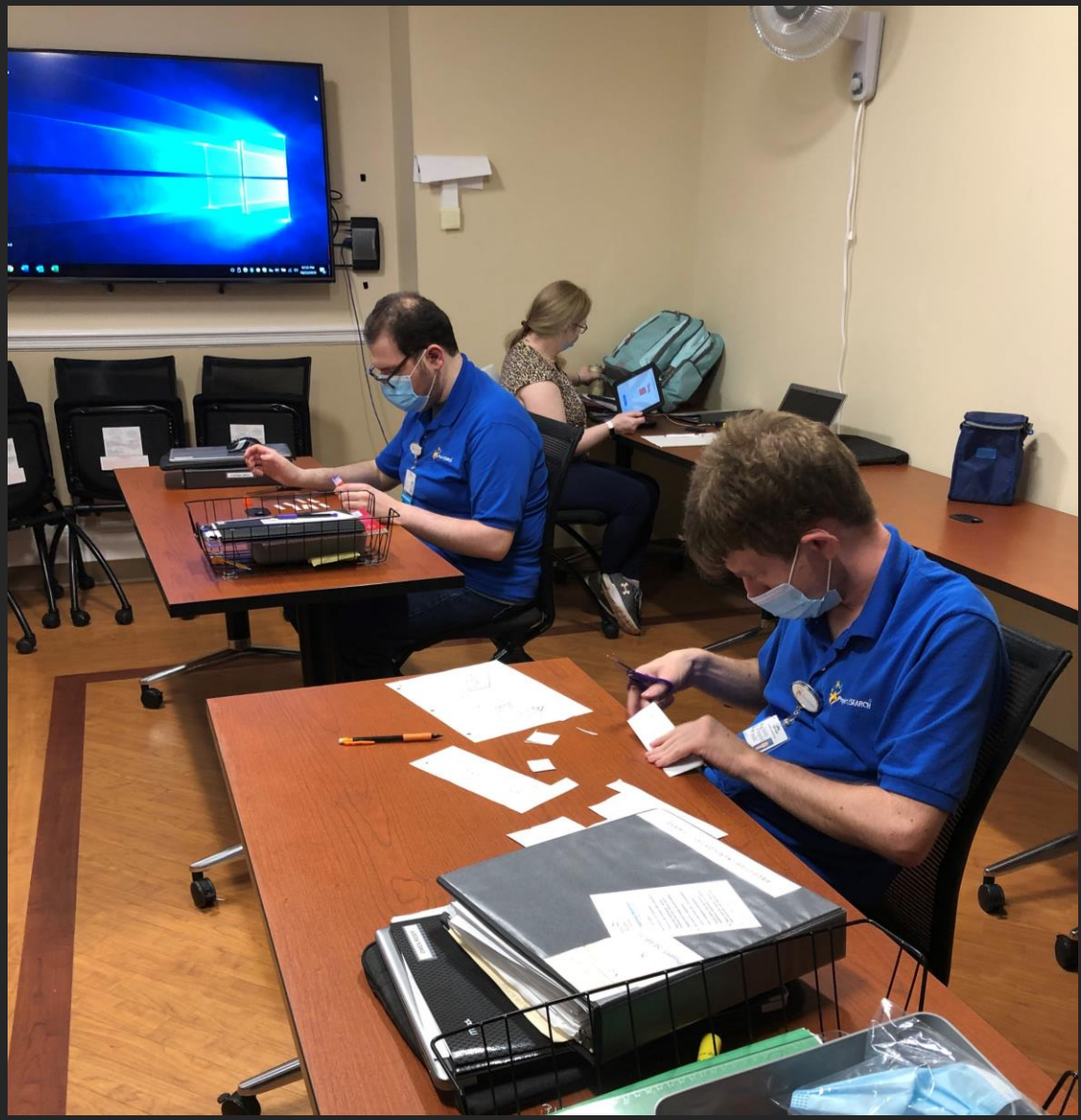


Interns with LARC's Executive Director, Michael Menard



Skills: Re-stocking and sorting supplies,  
Sanitizing surfaces,  
Folding towels, Following COVID Safety protocol

September 2020







Interns with LARC's Michael Menard, Instructor, Kathy Riberdy, Host Liaisons Pam Tino and VP, Brian Mattiello at Car Parade Graduation

December 2020



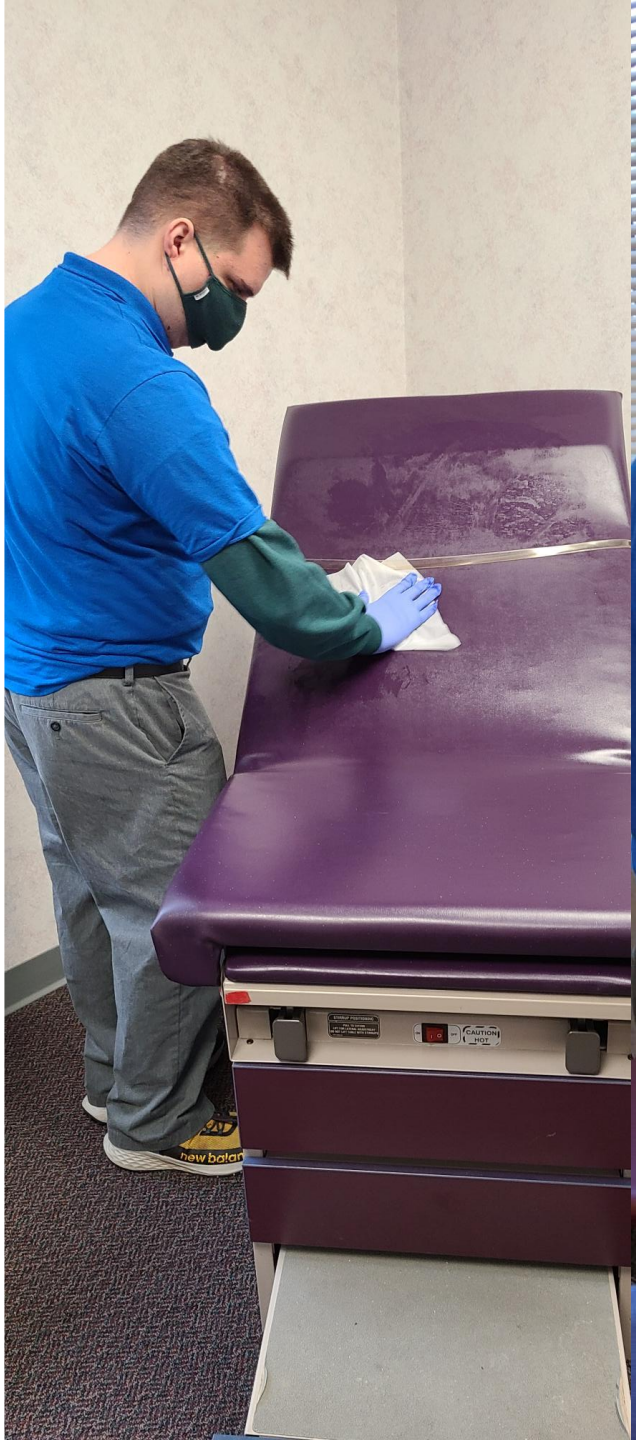
September  
2021

## Internship Opportunities:

Nutritional Services  
Podiatry Department  
Cardiology  
Storeroom  
Human Resources  
Cardiac Rehabilitation



Class of 2021-2022 with  
PS Special Educator, Kathy Riberdy  
& Skills Trainer, Ellen Kirsch



Skills:

- "Turn Over" Rooms
- Sanitize all surfaces
- Recycling
- Office work-collate papers, fold papers, stuff envelopes, replace copy paper





Skills:

- Food preparation
- Portion food
- Assemble food-salads, sandwiches
- Knife skills
- Mixing & scooping
- Using kitchen tools: can opener, slicer, date gun, blender
- Support Meals on Wheels



**Skills:**

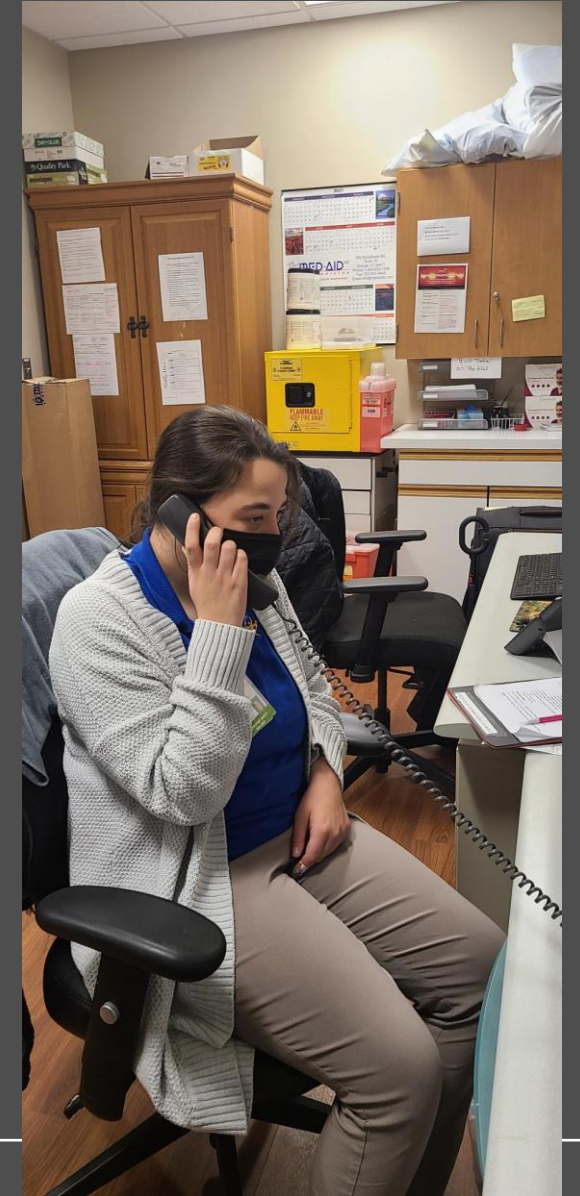
- Follow safety protocol
- Dust and sweep
- Assemble and count inventory

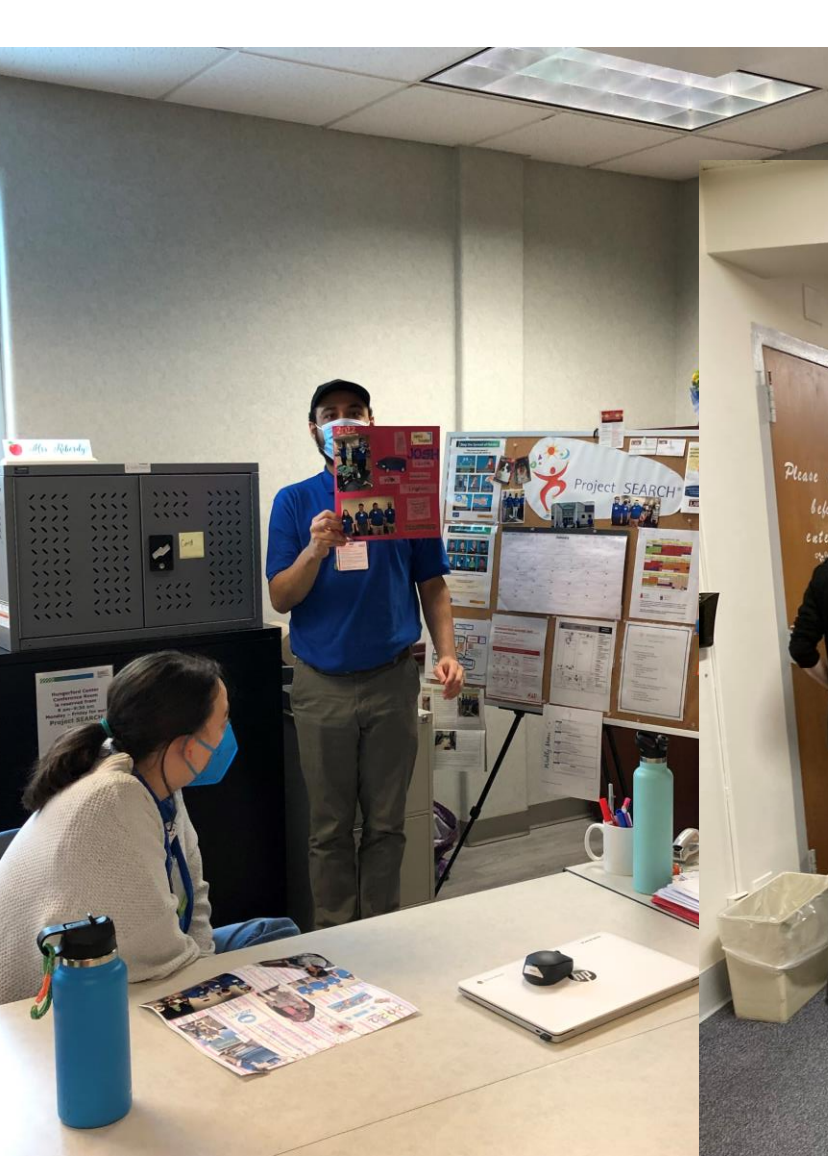




Skills:

- Communication Skills
- Patient escort and wheelchair transport
- Patient appointment reminder phone calls
- Highlight, collate & paperclip consent forms, use copier
- Re-stock supplies
- Read expiration dates
- Sanitize all touched surfaces





- Presenting PowerPoints to CHH
- Sharing Vision Boards with Team
- Wheelchair Transport Training
- Proud Interns!





# Testimonials:

## What has Project SEARCH meant to you?

**PS Graduate, Steve:** “The program gave me confidence in looking for a job. It gave me a sense of belonging and that people valued my ability to be trained in areas I never thought possible. The program trained me for independent employment. It gave me courage on how to handle job interviews. I learned to be organized at work by following the required steps to complete the assigned tasks. I would absolutely recommend Project SEARCH. It helped me to succeed in the job I now have!”

**Parents of Graduate, Randy & Marion:** “LARC has worked tirelessly with Steve over the years to make him more confident and willing to try new things, (which is not easy for him) and it was their efforts that prepared him for Project Search. His primary goal was to have independent employment. If it were not for the dedicated efforts and patience on the part of LARC, Steve would not have been ready to join Project Search.

Teaming up with Project Search just added one more powerful level to helping LARC’s clients achieve their goal of independent employment. Through the training received by Project Search staff in a classroom, and finally an actual work environment, Steve grew in confidence to the extent of applying and interviewing for jobs. It is through the supportive efforts of the Project Search staff and the encouraging training he received there that he is now not only employed, working five days a week, but he has learned to take the city bus to and from work in Thomaston.

Any parent of a child with special needs knows how difficult it is to get your child to try new things. There has not been even one day when we have had to struggle to get Steve to go to work (and he gets up at 6:00 a.m. on his own). That is the end result of Project Search’s tireless efforts to get Steve to the finish line as a winner.”

**Parent of current PS Intern, Jeannette:** “Project Search has been an absolutely amazing experience for our son, Aaron. He gets up eagerly on his own early every weekday morning just to be ready to go. He has learned so many different skills from cleaning patient rooms and proper safety and sanitizing protocols to calling patients to remind them of their upcoming appointments. He has also been working in the kitchen, learning sorting, measuring, portioning and other food prep skills. Aaron has also learned what it means to be part of a team, how to take direction and how to ask for help when needed. His self confidence has soared since he started this program. Now thanks to his newly acquired, hands-on job skills and the resume he has created through the program, we are certain that he will gain competitive employment and continue to succeed.”

**Parent of current PS Intern, Delia:** A year into COVID and my daughter was at a loss as to what she was going to do moving forward. I happened to read about Project Search on the LARC website and was able to get her signed up. From that moment, it has been a wonderful experience for all of us but most of all for my daughter. The program is extremely organized and very clear on expectations and responsibilities for the participants. Kathy and Ellen have worked tremendously hard to make sure that every Project Search participant is successful and it shows. My daughter has learned a tremendous amount and done amazing! Everyone that she has interacted with at Project Search and at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital has been kind, welcoming and supportive. I can't speak highly enough of this program. My daughter has developed real usable job skills that she can take to many different jobs, she now has the confidence in herself and her abilities to work in a competitive environment. We are all so glad to have had the opportunity to participate in such an outstanding program!

# Testimonials:

## What has Project SEARCH meant to you?

### Interns 2021-2022

#### Liam

I've been in project search from September 7th 2021 with my Friends. I'm enjoying project search. I like learning new skills, new friends, new jobs and new Ideas. We've learn about nutritional foods, being healthy, and how to Communicate. My favorite internship is the Cafeteria and Storeroom.

#### Sierra

Project SEARCH means that you can learn incredible job skills so you can get a job. It also means that I can get a good job that I would like to have in my lifetime. Project SEARCH helped me learn about all the different job opportunities that you may be interested in. Project SEARCH has given me more independence that I never knew I had.

#### Aaron

Learning job skills opened up a new chapter for me to be successful. I made new friends and mentored them shadowing their jobs. I'm very confident that I will get a job once the program is done. I picture myself working part time this summer. Making small mistakes doesn't mean you're never likely to be successful. It's part of being human and getting the job done. Killing people with kindness can help them realize how caring you are to them. If someone is having a bad day the least you can do is tell them "have a good day". Advocating for yourself can help your employer understand what things you don't feel comfortable doing or what you like about the job. I learned how to do independent problem solving if I have made a small error or if a certain thing didn't work. My favorite experience is Nutritional Services, prepping desserts and snacks for patients.

#### Josh

Things i have learned in Project Search classroom are

Job acceptable or not acceptable

Interview skills

Resumes

Job applications

Doing job etiquette

Setting goals

Health matters

Budgeting skills

Sexual harassment

My favorite job department i worked was

Storeroom

Cardiac Rehab

Things i learned in my internships jobs are

Ears nose throat-turn over rooms, clean and sanitize executive chairs, patient chairs, tables, door knobs, and waiting room.

Storeroom-break down boxes, stacking boxes, cutting down boxes, flattening the boxes, cleaning and sanitizing, sweeping and dusting.

Cardiac Rehab-cleaning and sanitizing all work out machines, chairs, door knobs, work out barbells and blood pressures, folding towels neat, and collate papers.

Dishwashing-put dishes away in the right spot, double check the dishes if they're clean, dusting and sweeping, cleaning and sanitizing coolers.

It's teaching me to be successful, professional and listen to your boss.



Contact: Kathy Riberdy, LARC's Project SEARCH Instructor & Coordinator at (860) 482-9364 Ext. 340



Class of  
2022-2023

