

Overview

Project SEARCH is a transition program that provides job training through an unpaid internship for people with disabilities. The program prepares these interns for competitive employment in the community.

Interns complete three worksite rotations to develop transferrable and marketable skills for future job successes.

Project SEARCH in Kalamazoo is a collaboration among the following organizations:

- Bronson Healthcare
- Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK)
- Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)
- Kalamazoo RESA and local school districts

Requirements

- Interns must have a current IEP
- Between the ages of 18-26 and eligible for Special Education Services
- Be willing to open a case with Michigan Rehab Services MRS
- Meet most current vaccination requirements of Bronson Hospital

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**Helping Young Adults
with Disabilities Obtain
Gainful Employment**

bronsonhealth.com/projectsearch

Business Advisory Council (BAC)

Employers in Kalamazoo County are welcome to become a part of the Project SEARCH/Bronson Healthcare BAC. We hope to foster relationships among area business leaders to assist interns in becoming valuable employees. BAC members attend quarterly meetings, connect other businesses to Project SEARCH, serve as email mentors, review resumes, host a tour or be a guest speaker among other roles.



Benefits to the Business of the Program Model

- Access to a new, diverse, talent stream with skills that match labor needs
- People with disabilities represent one of the fastest growing market segments in the United States
- Dramatically improved performance and retention in some typically high-turnover, entry level positions
- Support diversity and inclusion in their workforce and community

Benefits to the Students of the Program Model

- Be able to obtain competitive employment near or at the end of the program
- Individuals with Disabilities recognize their own abilities and strengths.
- Helps minimize barriers to employment so individuals can obtain and maintain employment

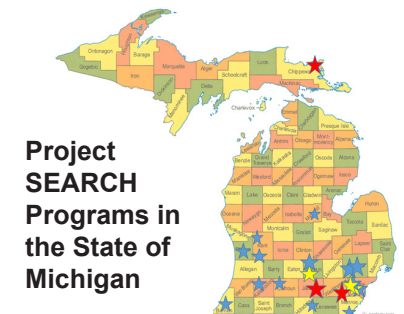


History

In 1996, Erin Riehle, the director of the emergency department at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center began Project SEARCH with one student. Now, Project SEARCH has more than 600 sites across 48 states and nine countries.

Michigan

In addition to Michigan hosting Project SEARCH sites across the state, Bronson Project SEARCH is the proud recipient of "Excellence in Employment" awards. These awards reflect on the dedication and teamwork Bronson Hospital contributes to the success of this program and to a positive community resource.



Project SEARCH Programs in the State of Michigan

"It helped me get ready for a job and feel more relaxed during interviews."
– Project SEARCH intern

"Prior to the program, she was very shy. After the program and the opportunities she had to interact with people, she can speak freely in group situations or to people she's never met before."
– Parent of Project SEARCH intern