About Project SEARCH®

Modeled on an internationally recognized employment training program developed at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), Project SEARCH programs in Arizona provide young people with disabilities quality unpaid internships for hands-on training and career exploration.

Programs take place entirely within a host business where total immersion in the workplace facilitates the teaching and learning process through continuous feedback and the acquisition of employability and competitive work skills.

The goal for each intern upon completion of a program is competitive employment in the community.

Program Structure

- Interns build communication and problem-solving skills as well as job specific skills through work site rotations.
- Following orientation to work site protocols, culture, and facilities, interns complete 3 to 4 unpaid rotations (each 10 to 11 weeks) during the program year. The intern, instructor, and job coach work together to select rotation sites based on the intern's interest and skills.
- Each program day includes a 4 to 5 hour shift at the rotation site in addition to an hour of classroom instruction in employability and independent living skills.
- Program duration varies by site between 9 to 11 months.

Project SEARCH Interns

Selection of program interns is made through a competitive process that includes a multi-component application and in-person interview. In addition to program specific eligibility criteria (see descriptions for High School Transition and Young Adult programs on back), successful candidates must demonstrate the following:

- strong desire/commitment to work competitively;
- willingness to explore public transportation options to access the program and competitive employment;
- ability to maintain appropriate behavior and social skills in the workplace without immediate supervision;
- goal to work at least 20 hours per week after program completion;
- and ability to meet host business clearance requirements.

Benefits to Interns

- Opportunity for career exploration through internships in a variety of departments within the host business.
- Acquisition of competitive, transferable, and marketable job skills.
- Further development of independence, confidence, and self-esteem.
- Access to on-site individualized instruction, support, and accommodations.

Contact

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http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/project-search-arizona

Partners

West-MEC

Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities

PIMA COUNTY

JTED

JOIN TECHNICAL EDUCATION DISTRICT

Department of Economic Security

Rehabilitation Services Administration

easterseals

Blake Foundation
High School Transition [HST]
Candidates are between 18 to 21 years of age, have an IEP, and agree that the program year will be his/her final year in high school. Interns participate through dual enrollment with Pima JTED and their home district. Because programs are housed entirely within a host business, incoming interns agree to exit all related services.

Young Adult [YA]
Candidates are between 18 to 26 years of age and have already exited high school. Prospective interns must be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services and approved for participation by their VR counselor.

Tucson Program Sites

- **University of Arizona**
  1224 West Lowell Street, Tucson
  Lead: Daniel Habinek, Pima County JTED
dhabinek@pimajted.org / 520-784-8329

- **Banner University Medical Center South Campus**
  2800 East Ajo Way, Tucson
  Lead: Ann Bertelsen, Pima County JTED
abertelsen@pimajted.org / 520-209-1722

Phoenix Program Sites

- **Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa**
  9495 West Coyotes Boulevard, Glendale
  Lead: Colleen McLoone, Western Maricopa Education Center
colleen.mcloone@west-mec.org / 602-814-7697

- **Core-Mark ADC**
  8313 West Latham Street, Tolleson
  Lead: Bethany Albert, Western Maricopa Education Center
bethany.albert@west-mec.org / 623-261-8204