



Project SEARCH[®] Arizona

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>

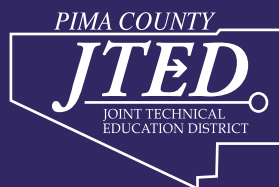
Partners

West-MEC



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Sonoran Center for
Excellence in Disabilities



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



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



HST

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



HST

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



YA

Banner University Medical Center Tucson Campus
1501 North Campbell Avenue, Tucson
Lead: Laura Schweers, Sonoran UCEDD
schweers@email.arizona.edu / 520-626-0677

Phoenix Program Sites

Julia Anderson, West-MEC Project SEARCH Coordinator
julia.anderson@west-mec.org / 602-380-7423



YA

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



YA

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

