

# The **SEARCH** Report

Building Skills, Building Futures



## What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a program that helps young adults with disabilities develop job skills and transition from high school to adulthood. How does it work you ask? That's simple, interns first complete training, then move into career exploration, and then into internships at our host business. They will benefit from this by learning skills used in communication, teamwork, cooperation, and even problem solving. Throughout this, interns will receive feedback and job coaching by instructors, skills trainers, and mentors.

## Our Intern Experience

In the following pages, our current interns will be discussing their feedback on what they have been learning from their past intern rotations. Rotations are ten weeks in three different departments. They will discuss various tasks and what they been learning in their rotations. Interns are expected to learn how to do the job and to be given and accomplish the tasks just like the other employees who have the job.



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BLACK HILLS

### Contributors to this Issue

#### Editor:

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Zander P.  
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Morgan O.



# Aspiring Interns on the Path to Healthcare Excellence!

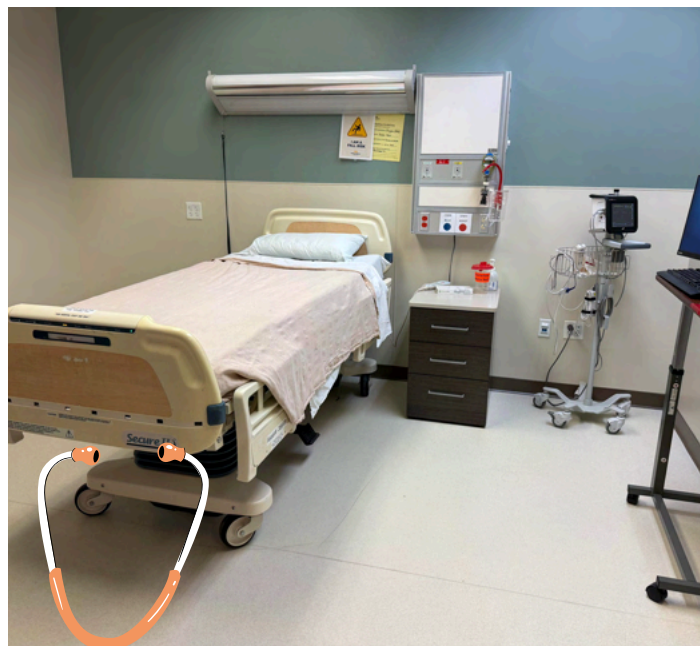
## The Nurse Aide Experience

Zoe H. & Briley H.

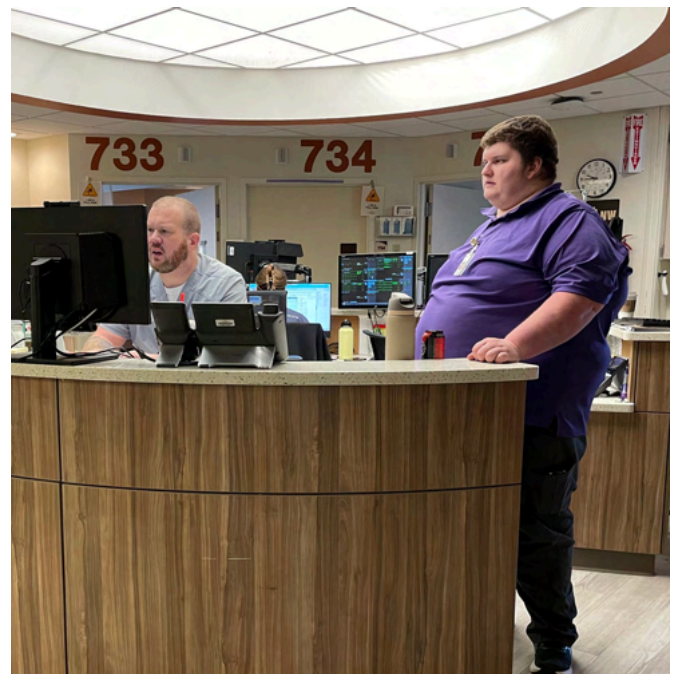
What we have learned as a Nurse Aide is: how to check blood pressure, putting the cuff on the right way, learning how to document vitals and record them. We also learned how to work with challenging patients. One patient Zoe worked with had been hit by a car, we had to be really careful with her because she was really injured.

We were required to learn from the Nurses Service Organization and complete training modules. In this training we had simulations with different nurses and people in the hospital. We got certified to take blood sugars and got to take our own blood sugars. We learned to remove saline locks and perform oral hygiene care. We practiced with a thickening agent to make apple and orange juice thicker. Thickening liquids are used to assist in not getting liquid into your lungs, which can cause Pneumonia. We learned why swallowing guidelines are put in place by a Speech Therapist to help the patient.

We also learned the importance of getting feedback from the mentors.



Zoe is learning how to take blood pressures with her mentor.



Briley is learning how to chart patient interaction with his mentor.



# Reaching New Heights and Soaring Toward Success!

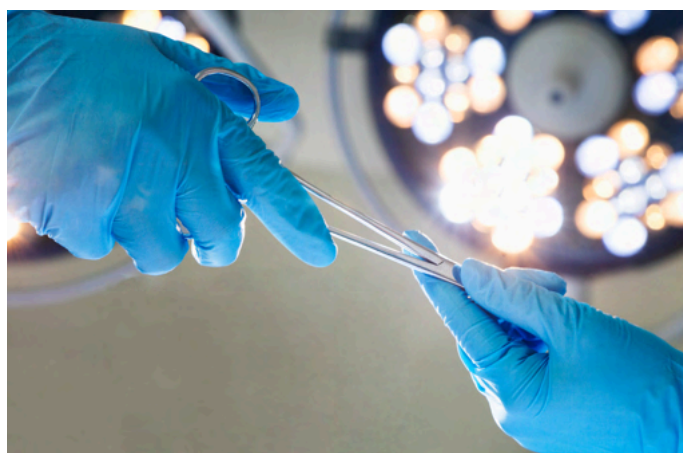


Shawn is sanitizing medical equipment alongside of the operating room team.

## In The Operation Room

Shawn S.

As a Project SEARCH intern at Monument Health, Shawn and the rest of the Operating Room team maintained a sterile environment by disinfecting surfaces, disposing of medical waste, and preparing the rooms for surgeries, ensuring patient safety using team efficiency.



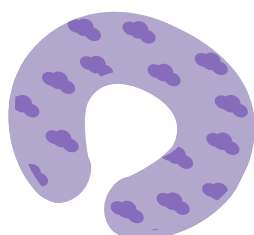
## Guest Services

Zander P.

In Guest Services I interned at the Main Entrance at Monument Health at the Rapid City Hospital, I learned to check people into the hospital that are coming to visit their family and friends. I also got to do what they called rounding, which is going into Patients rooms and offering them items to comfort them while they are in the hospital. I experienced the Surgical waiting area where I assisted in escorting people to their family following their surgery. It was important to know the Patient's name and date of birth.



Zander is delivering comfort items to patients in the hospital with his mentor.



# Intern Insights

I enjoy working in waitstaff because I get to see Patients that are happy to get their food.

**Zander P.**

What I really like about Project SEARCH is the ability to learn what you love to do in a career and to be able to move forward in chasing that career. I appreciate how the skills trainers and the instructors meet me where I'm at.

**Nate D.**

I enjoy spending time and working with the kids in the Monument Health Childcare.

**Zoe H.**

I really liked how the Operating Rooms were turned over following surgeries, how everyone worked as a team to get everything ready for the next one.

**Shawn S.**

I like working with the linen at Monument Health Laundry at Lombardy.

**Cody B.**

I really like working with the other staff at Behavioral Health in Dietary.

**Morgan O.**

I am enjoying the experience I am getting through the Nurses Aide training and now I am excited to be on the floor working with Nursing Staff.

**Briley H.**



## What Are Taxes?

Cody J.

Interns in Project SEARCH have gained valuable life skills which include learning about taxes. With the help of Skills Trainers and Instructors, they have provided us with the knowledge to understand tax responsibilities, manage finances, and prepare for greater independence in the workplace and beyond.

"Tax deductions are taken out of your paycheck. In South Dakota, there's not a state income tax. Taxes should be done between January 31 and April 15." Cody mentioned.

## Why Grapes?

Morgan O.

We have had the opportunity to explore a variety of healthy foods and their benefits as we gained knowledge about nutrition. This will help us make informed choices to support our overall health and well-being and learn lifelong habits for a healthier lifestyle.

"Grapes can come in many different colors. My favorite color of grapes is purple. They can taste sweet, but they can also be sour, as well as coming in bunches. You can use them in all kinds of recipes." Morgan said.