

# The SEARCH Report

Building Skills, Building Futures



## What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a transformative one-year program designed to empower individuals with disabilities by equipping them with the tools needed for competitive employment. Through comprehensive training, education, and internships, participants can explore various career paths and acquire essential job skills. Interns benefit immensely by developing marketable and transferable skills during three intensive 10-week rotations.

Project SEARCH fosters an environment of opportunity and high expectations, championing the right of people with disabilities to pursue both education and employment. We are committed to the belief that every intern has the potential to achieve the goal of competitive employment.

## Internship Experiences

In the upcoming pages, our current interns will share their feedback on their experiences during their initial internship. Each internship lasts ten weeks across three different departments. They will detail the various tasks they have undertaken and the knowledge they have gained in each department. Interns are expected to familiarize themselves with departmental roles and are assigned tasks similar to those of full-time employees.

## Project SEARCH National Stats Real Lives, Real Success

**72%** graduates achieve employment  
**53k+** interns served since 1996

**4.8k** new interns served annually  
**800+** active sites across the globe

## PS Black Hills Staff



Michael Hauge



Pam Juneck



Kristin Jacobs



## Experience as Activities Assistant

My name is Allissa. My first internship for Project SEARCH was at Black Hills Center for Aging where I spent quality time with the guests. I assisted and participated with the guests in different daily activities. It was important to me to know every guest's separate personalities. The more I conversed and made personal connections with the guests, the more confidence I gained in talking to people.



## My Time In Dietary

Hi, my name is Chris. I interned for Compass One in the Dietary department at Monument Health. I liked to work at the dishwasher. I worked many jobs using a task list like mopping the floor, dish washing, and stripping the trays. My internship was 10 weeks long training with two different mentors. I learned it was important to keep pace because the cooks need the dishes to prepare food for guests and staff at the hospital. I will be starting my second internship with Laundry. I look forward to a new experience.

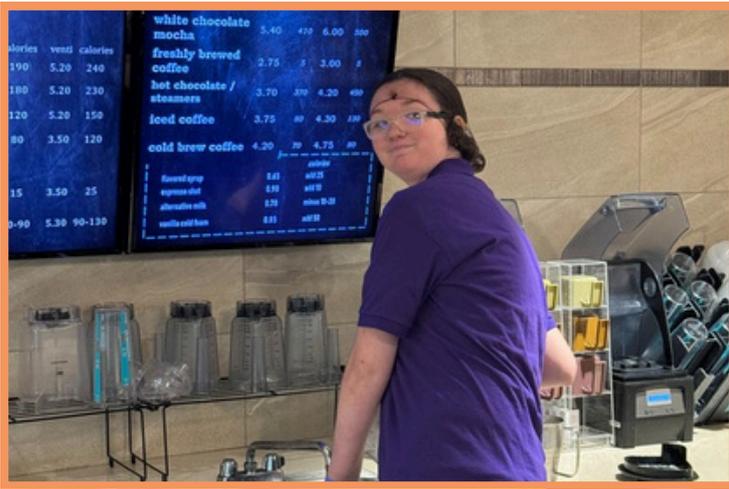
## My Experience with Patient Transport

Hello, my name is Phoenix. I interned for 10 weeks with Patient Transport for Compass One at Monument Health. I learned to sharpen my communication skills with patients while with the department. I transported patients to and from their appointments, for example; CT, MRI, PRE-OP, PACU, and Ultrasound. While working under Patient Transport, I had to follow the safety rules and wore PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to ensure mine and other's health and safety. I am looking forward to interning with Guest Services for my next internship.



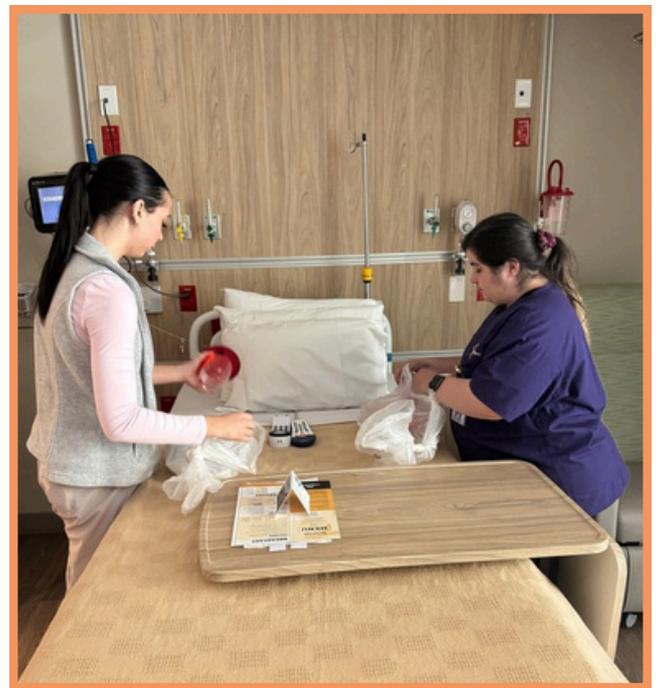
## The CREATE Experience

Hello, my name is Krystyna. I interned for Compass One in the CREATE Coffee Shop for ten weeks at Monument Health. I had the opportunity to learn how to make many drinks like cappuccinos, lattes, frappes, and refreshers, as well as working the cash register and giving change to customers. I was tasked with gathering and unloading inventory to CREATE. I worked with my mentor to properly learn the process of inventory. As I finish up the internship, I look forward to moving to Black Hills Center for Aging.



## My Experience as a Nurse Aide

Hi, my name is Parker. My first internship for Project SEARCH was a Nurse Aide in the Heart and Vascular Unit at Monument Health Rapid City Hospital for 10 weeks. I learned different tasks such as how to use the blood pressure cuff by putting it on and off the patient, changing bed linens. Through my mentor's help, I aided in taking and recording patient vitals. I learned how to wear PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) the correct way to ensure patient safety as well as mine. As I am finishing up my first internship, I am looking forward to moving to the Pharmacy Department.



## Keeping Up the Front of the House

My name is Molly. My first internship was in Dietary. I sanitize tables, chairs, and the microwaves. I also learned to sweep and mop the floors. I am using alarms to know when to take breaks and when to leave my shift. I am working following a task list and talk to my mentors. I learned to use my watch to record important details from staff huddles. I enjoy making people happy. My second internship will be in the Dish Room with Compass One.





# Intern Insights

## “What are you learning from your experience with Project SEARCH?”

I am gaining confidence in how to speak in a professional work setting. This is helping me self-advocate my needs.

**Allissa**

I have improved my personal resume for when I interview for job opportunities.

**Chris**

Project SEARCH is helping me strengthen my communication skills for a professional work environment.

**Phoenix**

Our volunteer events have shown me how important it is to give back to the community and building relationships.

**Krystyna**

I am learning how to be more independent by working on my budget skills and personal grocery shopping.

**Parker**

I am learning how important it is to stay on task using a checklist to help me do my tasks.

**Molly**

# Monthly Volunteer Events



**Monument Health  
Special Rodeo**



**United Way Day of Caring  
Storybook Island**



**Rush Hockey**



**Black Hills Center for Aging**

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