

The Project SEARCH Story

The idea of Project SEARCH was born in 1996 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. At that time, Nursing Administrator, Erin Riehle was frustrated by the continuous turnover of staff in entry level hospital positions. Erin knew that there was a better way to ensure quality staffing while minimizing turnover.

And then the idea came to her...work with young people with disabilities, providing them with first rate on site job training in complex, but routine jobs with the intent to provide them with job skills that would lead to paid employment. Together with Susie Rutkowski and Jennifer Linnabary the Project SEARCH Program came to fruition.

From one site came many. Today there are over 200 locations in the United States and around the world.

Project SEARCH at Phoenixville Hospital is proud to continue this training model and to be counted among the ranks of other Project SEARCH partners such as: Kaiser Permanente, the City of Miami, the Labor Department and University of Rochester Medical Center.

Project SEARCH at Phoenixville Hospital is a partnership with

- Phoenixville Hospital
- KenCrest EmployNet
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Chester County MH/IDD

Our planning partners are committed to providing students with the best supports possible to ensure a smooth transition into adult life and the world of work. Our ultimate goal is for our interns to find and maintain paid work in the community.

Project SEARCH at Phoenixville Hospital



For more information about our Project SEARCH Partners, please visit their websites:

www.towerhealth.org/locations/phoenixville-hospital
www.kencrest.org
www.chesco.org/mhidd
www.state.pa.us



Phoenixville Hospital

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For More Information Contact:

KenCrest
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Project SEARCH at Phoenixville Hospital



A Worksite
Based
School-to-
Work
Program for Youth with
Disabilities



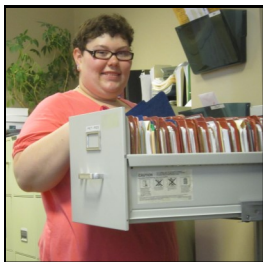
Phoenixville Hospital
140 Nutt Rd, Phoenixville, PA 19460

www.projectsearch.us



About Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH at Phoenixville Hospital is an onsite job training program that combines classroom instruction with practical job training within the hospital. The primary goal is for participants to achieve paid community employment.



The **Classroom Instruction** focuses on the soft skills that are cornerstones of successful employment.

Curriculum includes:

- Professional Responsibility
- Self-Advocacy
- Effective Communication
- Problem Solving Skills
- Planning & Managing a Career
- Flexibility & Teamwork

Typical Project SEARCH Programming Day

- 8:00 Arrive at Project SEARCH Office
Participate in instruction
- 9:00 Begin work in assigned department
- 12:00 30 minute lunch (lunch time varies by department)
- 12:30 Return to work in assigned department
- 2:00 Return to Project SEARCH office for daily review
- 2:30 Dismissal

The **Job Training and Work Experience** portion of the program allows interns to experience 3 rotations in various departments.

Job Training & Work Experience focuses on

- Job Skill Acquisition
- Increasing Independence & Confidence
- Quality Job Performance
- Problem Solving
- Teamwork and Responsibility

Each intern receives initial 1:1 job coaching. Supports will gradually fade as interns increase their independence and level of skill. Long term support will be provided by KenCrest



All supports are person-centered and rotation choices will be made based on interns' skills, experience and choices.

"Project SEARCH taught me to be responsible and it helped me to get a job"
- Matthew, Project SEARCH graduate

Please note: this is a job training program; students are not financially compensated for the internships.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be in their final year of High School
- Be eligible for OVR services
- Pass a drug screening and FBI clearance
- Demonstrate appropriate social skills
- Demonstrate basic communication skills (verbal or technology-supported)
- Be able to take direction
- Meet personal appearance and hygiene standards
- Be able to use restroom and cafeteria facilities independently
- Demonstrate an ability and willingness to access and use public transportation independently
- Comfortable working in a hospital setting



Application Process

- Referrals are made by the high school's Transition Coordinator.
- Application form is completed & submitted.
- Interviews are scheduled for select applicants.
- Committee deliberates and makes selection.
- Committee notifies successful candidates of their acceptance into the program.



Space in the program is limited.