

PROJECT SEARCH

# NEWSLETTER



## Project SEARCH Interns Complete BLS Training with FSW

This week, our Project SEARCH interns took an important step in building their workplace readiness and life-saving skills by completing BLS training, thanks to our valued partners at Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW). Through hands-on instruction and practice, interns learned how to respond effectively in emergency situations, adding a vital certification to their growing list of accomplishments. This training not only boosts their employability but also empowers them to make a difference in their communities. We are grateful to FSW for providing this opportunity and supporting our interns' professional and personal growth.



### • Impact

The Project SEARCH interns are making a remarkable impact across our hospital, bringing dedication, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives to every department they serve. From assisting with patient care to supporting vital administrative tasks, these talented young adults are learning valuable skills while contributing meaningfully to our team. Staff consistently praise their professionalism, positive attitudes, and eagerness to help wherever needed. Their presence not only lightens workloads but also inspires all of us with their determination and growth. We're incredibly proud of the outstanding work our interns are doing and look forward to seeing their continued success both here and in their future careers.

We are now accepting applications for the 26-27 Project SEARCH Program year. more information can be obtained by emailing [akeezer@cilgulfcoast.org](mailto:akeezer@cilgulfcoast.org)



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## Successful Employment Outcomes

When JM joined Project SEARCH at AdventHealth, he brought determination and a strong desire to build a career. His rotation in Materials Management became a perfect fit, where his attention to detail and work ethic stood out. After completing the program, JM was hired as a Materials Management Tech. He now receives vendor deliveries, scans and verifies internal orders, and delivers critical supplies throughout the hospital. Today, JM is a valued team member and helps train new Project SEARCH interns, giving back to the program that launched his success.



**CONGRATULATIONS**



We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Vocational Rehabilitation Case Manager, Niki Patton, for her unwavering support, guidance, and dedication to our interns' success. Your advocacy and commitment help create meaningful opportunities and remove barriers, empowering each participant to reach their fullest potential. We deeply value your partnership and encouragement.



### ● Our Founders

Children's Hospital Medical Center in 1996, initiated by Erin Riehle, then the Emergency Department Director. Recognizing the need for employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities, she sought to train them for entry-level positions in her department.

Partnering with Susie Rutkowski, the special education director at Great Oaks Career Campuses, they launched Project SEARCH. Since then, the program has expanded from a single site to an international network, focusing on securing competitive employment for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.