



Westchester Institute  
for Human Development

<https://www.wihd.org>

***Welcome!***

**Community Support Network Transition Institute 2022**



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<https://www.wihd.org>



Project SEARCH

<https://www.projectsearch.us/>

Competitive, transferable marketable skill development

Predictable scaffolded curriculum

Collaboration across partners

Independence and self-advocacy

Effective workplace behaviors

Avoiding gaps in service

Cost effective, braided funding



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# Project SEARCH

International Replication Program  
leading to entry level competitive  
employment - minimum 16 hours

Over 500 sites

Project SEARCH provides peer  
reviewed curriculum, processes and  
fidelity checks



# Norwalk Project SEARCH



*Project SEARCH Instructor: Erica Dellon*

*Transition Coordinator: Jess Ireland*

*Employment Specialist: Alysadria Diaz*

*Job Coach: Erica Sawyer*

# Project SEARCH Norwalk

Fun Fact: We are the 2nd program to be established in Connecticut!



Our collaborative team includes:





# Project SEARCH Curriculum

Interns receive daily instruction designed around the approved Project SEARCH focus areas:



Team Building



Technology



Preparing for Employment



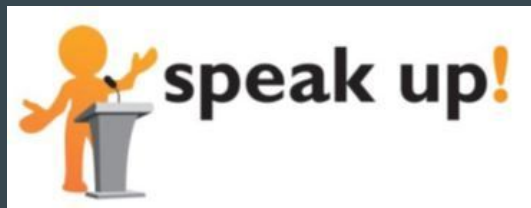
Health & Wellness



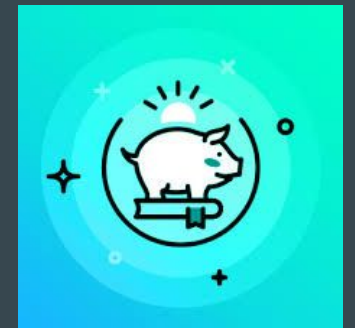
Maintaining Employment



Workplace Safety



Self-Advocacy

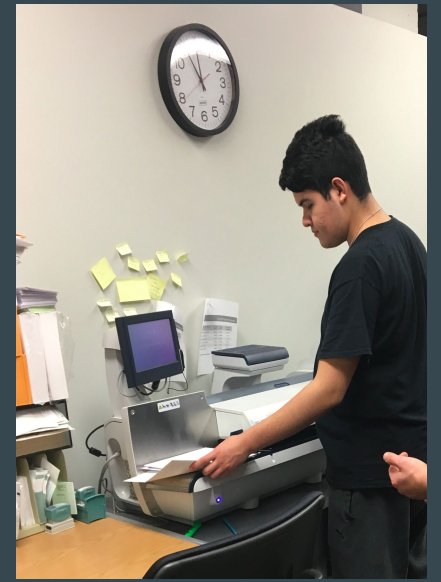


Financial Literacy

# Internships



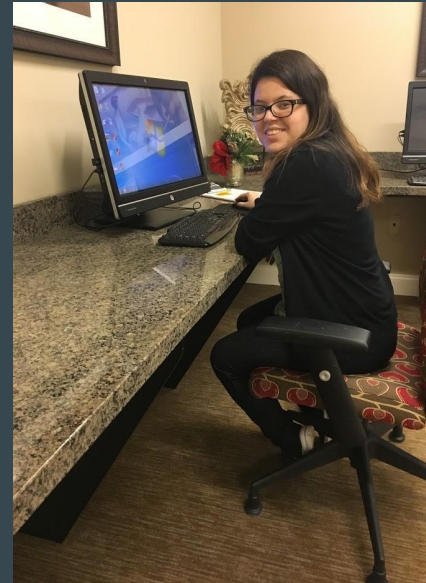
Maintenance



Mail Room



Food Pantry



Clerical



West Cafeteria



East Cafe

Shipping & Receiving, Early Childhood Center, IT Department, and more to come....



# Internship Opportunities: Covid-19 Edition



Norwalk Next Steps  
18-21 Community-Based  
Transition Program







# Project SEARCH Norwalk Data



## Year 1: 2018-2019

6 Interns

Two students required additional services after Project SEARCH. Other interns obtained Competitive Employment!

## Year 2: 2019-2020

7 Interns

Due to Covid-19 two students did not pursue employment and one student returned for an additional internship this year. Other interns obtained Competitive Employment!

## Year 3: 2020-2021

9 Interns + 1 Year 2 Intern  
who came back for one additional internship

**9 Interns Hired!**

Outback Steakhouse, Stew Leonard's, Chipotle, Bright Horizons Day Care, Party City, Bath & Body Works

## Year 4: 2021-2022

We hosted two Skills Assessment Days in April to accommodate Covid-19 Protocols

**12 Interns**

(11 Norwalk Public School students,  
1 DDS-funded Individual)



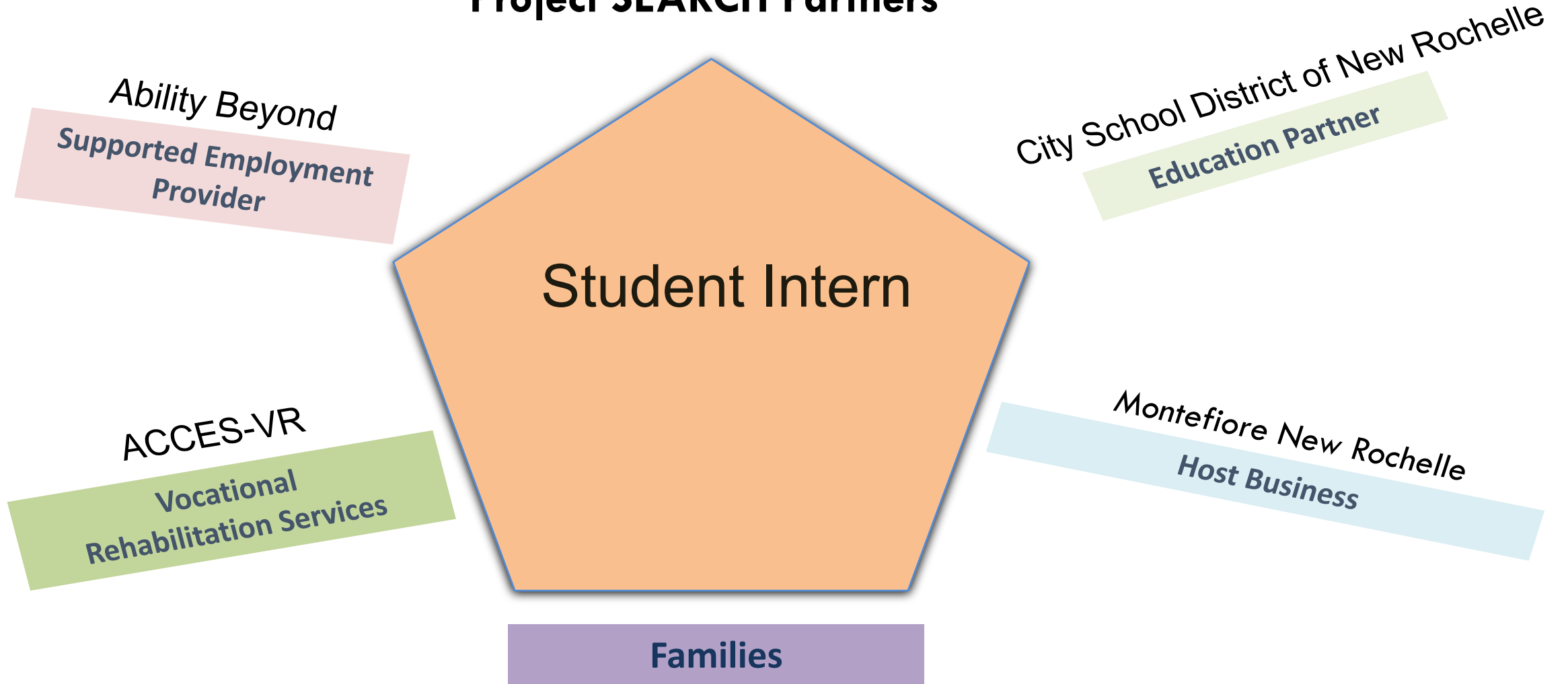
# MONTEFIORE NEW ROCHELLE PROJECT SEARCH

Coordinator/Instructor: Kathy Barbara  
School Counselor: Christine Grogan

Montefiore  
New Rochelle



# Montefiore New Rochelle's Project SEARCH Partners



Montefiore  
New Rochelle



# INTERNSHIPS – KEY INGREDIENTS

- Marketable, Transferable Skills
- Social Skills
- Three Rotations
- 4 – 5 Hours per Day
- 10 – 12 Weeks
- Evaluations/Feedback



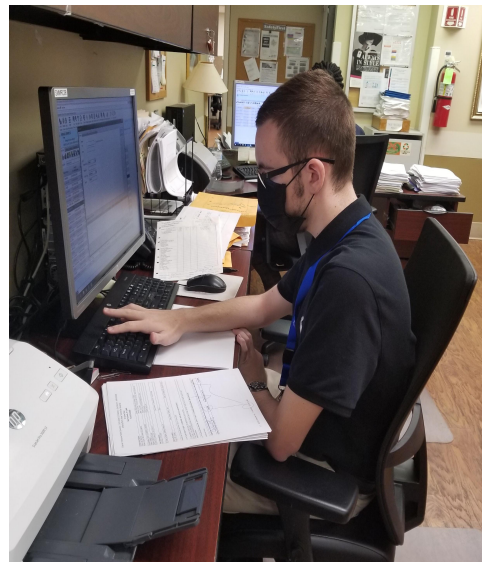
Montefiore  
New Rochelle





# Montefiore New Rochelle Internship Opportunities

- **Breast Center Office**
- **Cafeteria** – Serving, Stocking
- **Emergency Department** – Nurse Technician
- **Environmental Services** – EVS Aide
- **HIM Medical Records** – Office Clerk
- **Kitchen** – Food Prep, Dish Room, Tray Line
- **Mailroom Clerk**
- **MMG Health Clinic** – File Clerk
- **Nurse's Station Unit Clerk**
- **Patient Transport** – Transporter
- **Physical Therapy**
- **Schaffer Recreation Assistant**



# EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

Employment Goal for each Project SEARCH Intern

- 16 hours a week or more
- Minimum wage or better
- Award Winning Program for Past Five Years
- 90% Interns Successfully Employed
- Essential Workers During Pandemic



Montefiore  
New Rochelle



# EMPLOYERS WHO HIRED NEW ROCHELLE INTERNS

- Aramark Food Services
- ABB Optical Warehouse: Fulfillment Clerk
- BJ's: Stock Clerk
- DeCicco's: Cashier Assistant
- Digiscribe (MetaSource): Scanning Technician
- Dumont Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care: Recreation
- Home Health Aide Agencies
- Home Depot: Overnight Stocker
- Goodwill: Store Clerk
- Mamaroneck Elementary School Cafeteria: Food Service
- Montefiore New Rochelle: Kitchen Dietary Workers
- Montefiore Mount Vernon: Nurse Technician in PCU
- Pizza Hut
- Sam's Club Greeter
- Stop n Shop: Stock Clerk
- White Plains Center for Nursing Care: Recreation Asst



Montefiore

New Rochelle





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Next Project SEARCH in Westchester  
(in development)  
anticipated Sept 2022 :  
Columbia Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital

Partners:

WIHD/CSN

Columbia Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital  
(Host Site)

Ability Beyond

Participating School Districts

Self Direction

Project SEARCH





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**Project SEARCH -  
WIHD/Columbia  
Presbyterian Lawrence  
Hospital**

## **Eligibility**

Ages 19-25

Completing last year of IDEA services or  
OPWDD eligibility (or pending)

Potential for competitive employment  
with supports

Potential for workplace behavior safety

Desire for independence and self  
direction to participate in integrated  
community experiences

Referrals being accepted for  
September 2022

From School Districts for  
individuals with continued IDEA  
eligibility or

From Care Coordinators, families  
or self-referred for individuals  
with OPWDD eligibility



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**Project SEARCH -  
WIHD/Columbia  
Presbyterian Lawrence  
Hospital**

### Unique Opportunities:

Direct support from CSN to families to assist in navigating the adult systems

Support in OPWDD eligibility process

Guidance in guardianship

Work-Based Learning Opportunities and Employment Profiles

Guidance in Self-Direction programs

Self-advocates social groups

Self-Advocates speakers forum

Guidance in supported decision making

Access to housing navigators

Monthly progress meetings with data and measures for Life Plans



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Interested in Program Development?? Contact CSN for technical assistance

## Steps to creating a Project SEARCH

1. Identify Host Site - varied departments for internships opportunities
2. Identify fiscal resources - typically reallocation of existing resources
3. Select Partners - Adult Support Agencies
4. Confirm eligibility and selection criteria
5. Contract with SEARCH for Training, Materials and Fidelity Checks
6. Hire and train staff (teacher, job coaches)
7. Interview and selection process for participants - skill assessment
8. Train and support work site department heads - natural supports
9. Set up space for (community) classes



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## For More Information

Project SEARCH at CSN  
Yvette Goorevitch  
[ygoorevitch@wihd.org](mailto:ygoorevitch@wihd.org)

Send Electronic Referrals to

IEP or ISP  
Transition Plan , Life Plan and Assessment  
Most Recent Psychological, Clinical and  
Educational Reports



# CSN/District Partnerships

## **Staff PD Training Workshops\* - Quarterly PD (onsite or zoom) 2 hours - 4 sessions**

- ( ) Add Direct Parent Education and Training groups (4 sessions)
- ( ) Add Direct services to students (groups) for modeling 6 one hour sessions
- ( ) Add Individual Transition Supports to student/family - 6 sessions

## **Workshop Topics:**

- ( ) Navigating Systems /OPWDD Eligibility/ Self Direction
- ( ) Guardianship and Supported Decision Making
- ( ) Self Directed IEPs
- ( ) Curriculum Development and Training - Health, Hygiene and Sexuality

## **Additional Partnership Contractual Resources**

- ( ) Alternative Dispute Resolution (mediation, facilitation)
- ( ) Building Inclusive Communities with Samuel and Dan Habib
- ( ) Proposal Executive Coaching for District Leaders (10 days on-site or remote coaching with on-going phone and email access to CSN supports)
- ( ) Community Based Program Development Support - District Support Team - per diem
- ( ) Community Based Program - Student Tuition Fees (Project SEARCH in design)

Blended Model - School District Contract or Self Direction Funding

subject to variation based upon individual student need

# Special Appreciation to:

Norwalk School District

Erica Dellon, Project Search Teacher

Jessica Ireland, Transition Coordinator

New Rochelle School District

Kathy Barbara, Project Search Teacher

Christine Grogan, School Counselor/Transition Coordinator



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# *Questions* **????**

*Tell us how we did,  
please complete the session evaluation*

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