



# The Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health Quarterly Newsletter

Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health Interns teamed up with Fearless Women Ministries for the 2020 holiday season to organize a food drive for South Jersey families. The interns collected non-perishable food items and grocery store gift cards, organized the items, and loaded up the vehicles. Heather Edwards, JFCS Project SEARCH Skills Trainer, along with other volunteers from Fearless Women Ministries, delivered the meals to 30 families in time for the holidays. Steering Committee members, Business Advisory Council members, family and friends of Project SEARCH contributed to the success of the Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health food drive.



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# Next Steps

## INTERVIEWING FOR SECOND ROTATION



Jessica interviewing with Elliot from Environmental Services.



Jordan interviewing with Rebecca from Patient Transport.

Project SEARCH interns completed their first 12-week internship rotation on December 23rd. Before transitioning into the second rotation, they revised their resumes and brushed up on their interviewing skills. Each intern interviewed with two or three department managers from Food Service, Storeroom, Administration, Environmental Services, Surgical Services, Physical Therapy, Patient Transport, and Pharmacy.

## INTERNS TRAINING INTERNS

After each intern was offered a position in Jefferson Health departments, they began learning skills from their peers who interned in that department during the first rotation. Naitri (top left) is training Dalton in Environmental Services how to stock his cart to prepare for his daily tasks. Will (top right) is describing to Mars how to read the pick list in the storeroom. Eddie, in Food Service, is explaining to Will (bottom left) how to maintain a fully stocked refrigerator, including stocking the beverages so that the cold drinks are always in front. Owen (bottom right), who was the first intern in Pharmacy, is training Jordan to look for expired medicines and showing him where to store them after pulling them from the shelves.

Peer training is beneficial to both peers: the trainer develops communication and teaching skills, while the trainee gets an overview of the department prior to the official start.



Peer training, a Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health addition to the Project SEARCH model, was implemented by the on-site team in the program's second year.

# MOVING FORWARD: SECOND ROTATION



Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health interns began their second 12-week rotation on January 4th. Interns are continuing to develop skills to prepare them for competitive employment in their communities. The second rotation runs until March 19th when they will begin their last rotation, building on the skills they've been learning since September. Pictured in the first row are Naitri in Patient Transport, Owen in Healthcare Access, and Mars in the Storeroom. In the second row are Jordan in Pharmacy, Jessica in Administration, and Dalton in Environmental Services. In the third row are Eddie in Facilities, Amelia in Surgical Services and Will in Food Service.

# SNOW DAYS!



South Jersey saw upwards of a foot of snow in some parts giving Project SEARCH interns and staff not one, not two, but three snow days in the early days of February. On February 2nd, interns met remotely for their morning huddle with their skills trainers, Kelly and Heather, and Instructor, Ernie, who "assigned" them homework -- to help their families shovel snow. Part of being a Project SEARCH intern is learning responsibility, and another part is life/work balance. They definitely balanced their hard work with some winter fun. Photos submitted by Janeene Martin, Project SEARCH Job Developer, and Interns Will (top right), Amelia (bottom left) and Jordan (bottom right).

# Interns assist in move to new Patient Pavilion



Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health Interns assisted in the big move to the new Patient Pavilion in the Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital. Lisa Dutterer, Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital Chief Administrative Officer and Project SEARCH Business Liaison, reported that the move was completed in early December. She thanked those interns who helped, adding that she appreciated their support.

"Supply Chain," she said, was "incredibly important in the move."

William (back left) and Amelia (front right) interned in the Storeroom during their first rotation with support from skills trainers, Kelly (front left) and Heather (back right). Owen (bottom) interned in the Pharmacy.

Both departments were essential in getting hospital and pharmaceutical supplies moved over to the new Patient Pavilion.

[Read more about the new Patient Pavilion by clicking here.](#)

# Employment Outcome Award Received

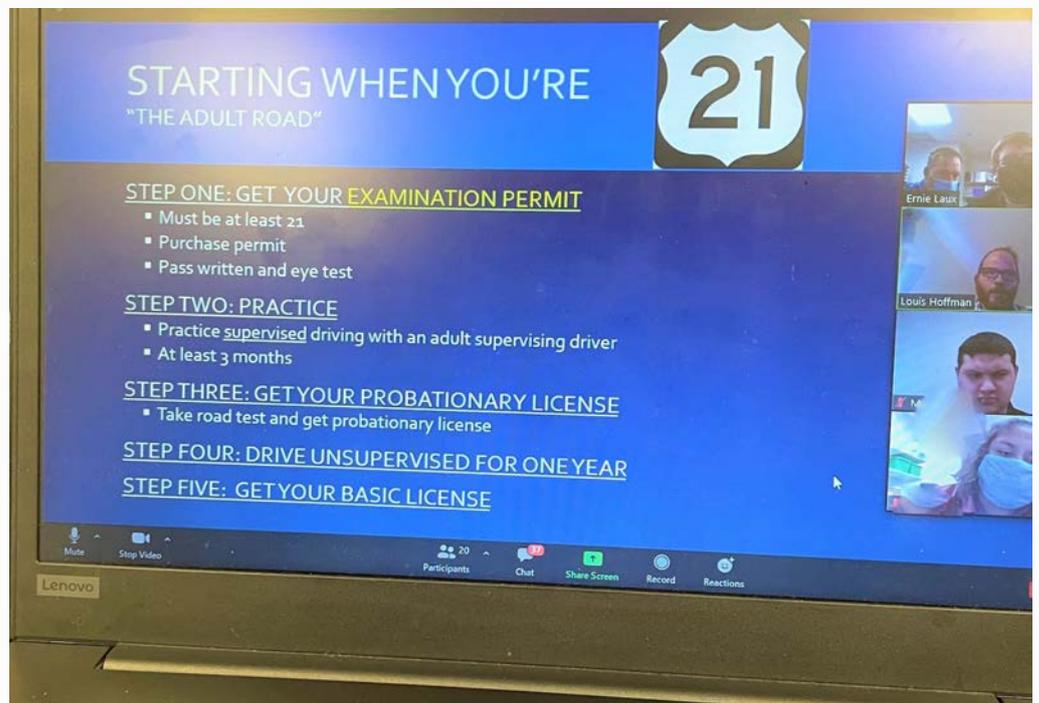


Pictured (back left to right) are Kyle and Steven; (middle left to right), Jill Ostrem, (former) Senior Vice President of Hospital Operations; Tyler, Melissa, Nicholas, and Lisa Dutterer, Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital Chief Administrative Officer and Project SEARCH Business Liaison; and (front left to right) William and Catherine.

Each year, Project SEARCH recognizes programs with exceptional employment outcomes. Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health was recognized for achieving an 88% employment outcome for the 2018-2019 program year. Usually these awards are presented at the Project SEARCH annual conference, but because of Covid-19 the 2020 conference was held virtually and the awards were mailed.

The Project SEARCH Employment Outcome Award arrived in the mail last month and is on display in the Project SEARCH training room along with the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 awards.

# TRAVEL TRAINING WITH NJTIP



Through a partnership with NJTIP, Project SEARCH interns receive training on how to schedule and ride various modes of transportation within the community. By special request, Louis Hoffman, Program Manager/Travel Instructor, and Melody Bundy, Research Coordinator, (pictured above) customized the standard travel training curriculum to offer a virtual class on the expectations of driving. One intern already drives, and several others are studying to take the written test or are practicing behind the wheel.

# Project SEARCH Alumni News

## Graduate honored for logistics work at AtlantiCare

Please click underlined text to check out a video of the virtual award celebration.

Nicholas C., a 2019 graduate of Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health, was honored at the 2020 DEAM Award Celebration in October for his work as a logistics technician at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Egg Harbor Township. The 2020 Celebration of the 75th National Disability Employment Awareness Month also marked 30 years since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act and 100 years since the inception of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Julia Blackwell, Director of Operations for JEVS hireAbility and MC for the virtual event, explained that she was proud to present Nick with this award. "After landing a job at AtlantiCare, Nick has been an essential worker working the entire time during the Pandemic," she said.

Tina Brand, who was Nick's DVR Counselor during Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health, explained that the year-long internship program exposed Nick to different work environments. "Project SEARCH helped him take his strengths and develop some of the areas he may have struggled with as he prepared for the work force." Brand added, "I couldn't be more proud, and it speaks to the testament of the team that worked with him and the patience that we all had in the process."

Jennifer Van Seters, Talent Acquisition Partner for AtlantiCare and a member of the Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health Business Advisory Council, first met Nick during one of the program's Reverse Job Fairs. She said, "Fortunately we were able to find a position for him in the logistics department where he has been successful."

Nick said that his job as a logistics technician at AtlantiCare makes him feel "happy and productive." Kimberly Callahan, Career Navigator with JEVS hireAbility, worked with Nick after he graduated from Project SEARCH to land the job at AtlantiCare. As his job coach, she has seen him grow and sees opportunity for continued growth at AtlantiCare. "He worked all through Covid," she said. "I'm so proud of him for doing that. He really is a hero. Like all the people who are on the front lines - he is one of those."



**Congratulations to Chris on his success at Wawa and his beautiful new car!**

## 2020 Grad spots counterfeit bill

Chris worked during high school stocking refrigerators at Wawa. Wanting to remain with Wawa after graduation from Project SEARCH, Chris advocated for himself, gained more hours and expanded his role.

Attention to detail -- a natural strength he perfected picking hospital supplies during his Project SEARCH internship -- served him well recently when he identified a counterfeit bill while working the cash register. Chris's ability to multi-task makes him a shoo-in as a Customer Associate, chatting with customers while ringing up their purchases simultaneously!

With his hard work, desire to learn more, and dedication to his aspirational goal, Chris saved enough money to purchase a new car.

# Business Advisory (BAC) Council News

The images and text below are interactive. Please click underlined text or image to check out the video.

## **BAC MEMBER SUE LEARN, DIY MEDIA GROUP HONORED BY JFCS**



Sue Learn, VP of Human Resources of DIY Media Group, was honored at Jewish Family and Children's Service's 2020 Dubrow Vocational Celebration. DIY Media Group, a Pennsauken-based company that services artists, authors and film makers in marketing their material, was recognized for its commitment to inclusion for all.

At the virtual celebration held in November, Karen Marks, JFCS Supported Employment Manager, said through JFCS's partnership with Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health, Learn and JFCS first connected.

Learn said she saw the great opportunity for a partnership when she was first introduced to JFCS at the Project SEARCH Business Advisory Council meeting. "DIY had been making a concerted effort to increase diversity," Learn said, "and at the same time we were struggling to find workers with strong work ethic who would show up to work and be on time every day."

DIY wanted to partner with JFCS to fill several positions. Through this partnership, they hired Matt K., a JFCS client of 10 years who was honored along with Learn at the Celebration. Learn said she appreciates Matt for his strong work ethic and demonstration of company values.

DIY's values were exemplified when the company recognized the need for PPE during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and pivoted to manufacturing face shields for front line workers. "There was a demand for PPE everywhere, and all our resources went to face shield assembly," Learn said.

Click to view previous [JFCS Dubrow Vocational Celebration employers and honorees including Jefferson Health and Project SEARCH alumni Helaina, Adham, and Anthony; and McDonalds and Project SEARCH alumnus Jonathan.](#)

## **Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health BAC to host Virtual Job Fair**

Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health Business Advisory Council (BAC) members support the Project SEARCH program by mentoring the interns and networking in the community. On January 25th, BAC members conducted virtual mock interviews with the interns to prepare them for the virtual job fair scheduled for March 8th. At the job fair, participating employers will have an opportunity to interview interns who have gained valuable transferable work experience during the Project SEARCH program year.

To participate in the job fair, contact BAC Members Janeene Martin, JFCS Project SEARCH Job Developer, at [jmartin@jmartin@jfedsnj.org](mailto:jmartin@jmartin@jfedsnj.org) and/or Angel Lucas, JEVS/hireAbility at [angela.lucas@jevshireability.org](mailto:angela.lucas@jevshireability.org).

Other BAC members include Barbara Abrams, JFCS; Cheryl Casciano, NJ DVRS; Michelle Clark, Clark Management; Debbie Deissroth, BAC Chair, DD Coaching and Consulting; Carl Donato Jr., Wawa; Jill LaPan; Sue Learn, DIY Media Group; Mark Ludes, MBB Management; Kyle McCormick, Occupational Training Center; and Jennifer Van Seters, AtlantiCare.

The 2020-21 BAC welcomes new members Kate Burch, Grace Management Company; Rob Deissroth, DD Coaching and Consulting; and Brett Levin, MHS Lift.

Thank you to all BAC members for supporting Project SEARCH.

**Project | SEARCH at Jefferson Health**

**Virtual Job Fair**

Meet qualified job seekers with experience in:

Clerical/Data Entry	Patient Transport
Hospitality/Guest Services	Stockroom/Storeroom
Building Maintenance	Environmental Services
Pharmacy	Food Service

Monday, March 8, 2021  
Noon to 2 p.m.

Please RSVP by March 1st

Janeene Martin | [jmartin@jfedsnj.org](mailto:jmartin@jfedsnj.org) | 856-630-1306  
Angel Lucas | [Angela.Lucas@jevshireability.org](mailto:Angela.Lucas@jevshireability.org) | 609-412-1254

See video link of previous years' job seekers and how inclusive hiring can work for your business: <https://jfcsnj.org/supported-employment>

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Jefferson Health | YALE SCHOOL | CMR | NEXT | JFCS

# Project SEARCH Bulletin Board

**Happy Valentines Day!**



**Project | SEARCH®**  
**FAMILY EDUCATION SESSION**  
FEBRUARY 17 | 7 to 9:00 PM

Join us for this Virtual Event

**Anticipating Independence:**  
SSI and Medicaid Benefits, Special Needs Trust and Housing Options

**Presenter:**  
Michael T. Byrne, ChFC Lighthouse Planning Consultants

[Register here](#)

This session is part of the Y.A.L.E. School Compass Transition Series.

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
Jefferson Health. YALE SCHOOL  
DORIS W. FISHER CENTER FOR AUTISM  
NEXT AUTISM  
JFCS Youth Family & Children's Service

Please save the dates for our next Project SEARCH Family Education Sessions: April 12 and May 10

**Deadline Approaching!**

**Applications for Project SEARCH  
2021-22 Program Year  
Due March 1.**

**Don't miss out on an  
experience of a lifetime!**

**[Click here to apply.](#)**

**Interested in  
hosting an  
intern?**

**Contact Ernie Laux at  
(856) 524-2039  
[Ernie.Laux@jefferson.edu](mailto:Ernie.Laux@jefferson.edu)**

**HIRING?**

**Consider a Project SEARCH Graduate.**

**Contact  
Janeene Martin, Job Developer  
[jmartin@jfedsnj.org](mailto:jmartin@jfedsnj.org)**

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS

