



FSSA News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Twelve Project SEARCH interns will graduate from service to the State of Indiana this Friday

The worksite-based school-to-work program provides employment and education opportunities for students with disabilities transitioning from high school

Indianapolis (May 25, 2016) - Twelve young adults who have served as Project SEARCH interns at the Indiana Government Center for the past year will be celebrated in a graduation ceremony this Friday at the Indiana Statehouse. Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson will be the keynote speaker at the graduation.

Who: Twelve interns from Project SEARCH, a worksite-based school-to-work program that provides employment and education opportunities for students with disabilities transitioning from high school.

What: A graduation ceremony

When: Friday, May 27, 2016, at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Indiana Statehouse South Atrium

Speaker: Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson

Project SEARCH originated at the [Cincinnati Children's Medical Center](#) and in Indiana is administered by FSSA's Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) under the Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS). Each Project Search site partners with Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, a host business, the affiliated school district(s), and a community service provider.

"Every year, we continue to be pleased and amazed at how successful our Project SEARCH interns are at immersing themselves into the workforce and learning important skills that allow them to succeed and gain long-term employment," said DDRS Director Kylee Hope. "The work

experience and job coaching, resume-building and interviewing skills that our graduates gain in the program are invaluable in helping to secure their futures.”

Project SEARCH graduates have been hired by many state agencies, including Family and Social Services Administration, Department of Child Services, Indiana Department of Administration, Workforce Development, Indiana State Library, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Office of the Indiana Secretary of State and Office of the Indiana State Auditor.

State contractors Novitex and Nishida have also employed program graduates, as well as companies like Taco Bell, McDonalds, UPS, Walgreens and the Indianapolis International Airport.

The program benefits employers by increasing workforce diversity and reducing recruitment and training costs. Many employers experience improved job retention, enhanced community image and increased customer satisfaction. Project SEARCH has a 70 percent employment rate for its graduates.

More information about Project SEARCH, including locations of other work locations in Indiana, [is available here](#), and photos and other information about Project SEARCH [can be found here](#).

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