



Project SEARCH - Kalahari FACT SHEET

What is Project SEARCH?

- One year transition program which provides training and education leading to competitive employment for individuals with disabilities.
- The program occurs on-site at a business which has the commitment to support people with disabilities in the workplace.
- Assists young adults with disabilities in making a successful transition from school to working and living a productive adult life.

Program Description:

- One-year program
- Up to 12 student interns per school year
- Students with a variety of disabilities, who are in their last year of high school eligibility
- Rotation through unpaid internships at host business with continual feedback
- Employment in an integrated environment
- Graduation with a formal ceremony
- Outcome of competitive employment

Key Ingredients of Internships:	Sample Project SEARCH Day:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internships are the cornerstone of the Project SEARCH program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 Arrival, Plan for Day, review Daily agenda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interns learn competitive, marketable, and transferable employment skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 Report to departments and participate in internships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interns participate in training approximately 5 hours per day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:00 Lunch Break
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interns have the opportunity to develop work and social skills in a natural environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:30 Return to departments and continue internships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each internship lasts approximately 10 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:00 Review day's activities, Group instructional time to focus on curriculum and employability skills, and communication among all team members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation is ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:15 Depart Host Site

Potential Internship Areas at Kalahari

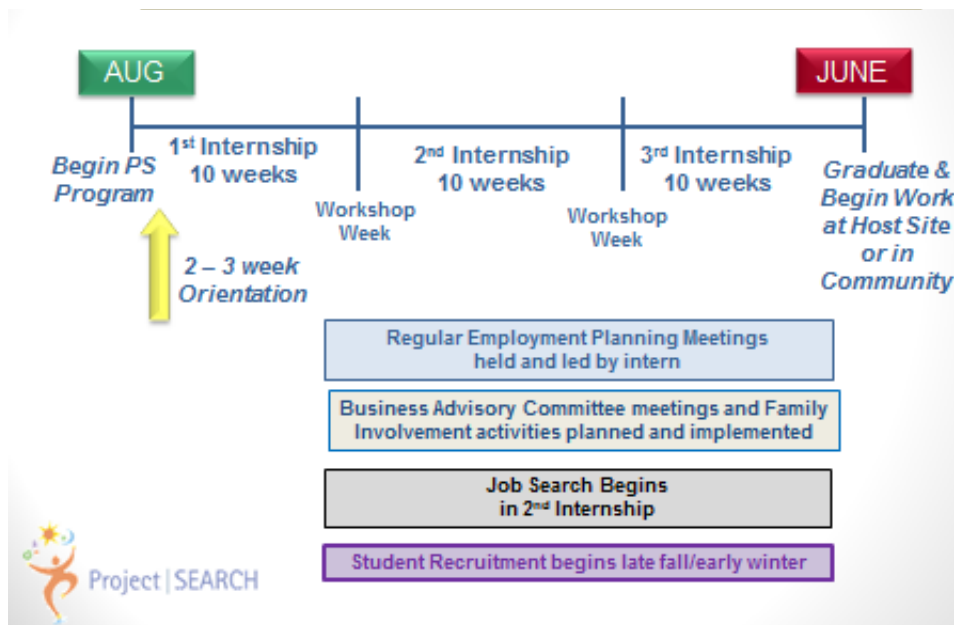
Administration: Filing Inventory	Spa: Spa Attendant Retail: Retail Cashier Inventory Management
Rooms Division: Concierge Door/ Bell Person Common Area Cleaning Room Cleaning/ Housemen Sorting/ Stocking Carts Laundry Linen Sorting	Food & Beverage: Busing Tables Hosting Buffet Decorating Banquet Set-up Audio/Visual Set-up
Spa: Spa Attendant	Information Technology (IT): IT Assistant
Retail: Retail Cashier Inventory Management	Receiving: Receiving Distribution
Internships are based upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intern's interests and skill sets; team input • Kalahari understands and can accommodate various personalized needs 	

Eligibility Guidelines and Requirements:






- Applicant must be 18–22 year old students with disabilities enrolled in school-age programming.
- Applicant must be entering his/her last year of high school and/or all high school credits completed.
- Applicant must exhibit appropriate hygiene, social, and communication skills.
- Applicant must have the ability to take direction and change behavior.
- Applicant must have access to reliable transportation and willingness to use independent transportation options.
- Applicant must establish OVR Eligibility.
- Applicant must secure a current PA State ID and possess an original Social Security Card.
- Applicant must be willing to complete and pass background checks.
- Applicant must enroll with County Mental Health/Developmental Services, if eligible.
- Applicant must have the desire to work and become competitively employed!

Student Application Highlights:

- **February 14, 2025:** Applications are due. Applications received after the due date will also be considered.
- **March/April:**
 - Interview team reviews applications
 - Selected applicants are scheduled for in-person interviews
 - Project SEARCH interns are selected and notified of acceptance
 - OVR eligibility is confirmed
- **May/June:** Introductory meeting for new interns & complete program entrance requirements
- **August:** Informational meeting/ orientation for new interns and families
- **Early October:** IEP Meetings held for each intern



Project SEARCH Kalahari – Partners’ Contact List

	Contact Person(s):	Phone Number:	Email:
 <p>Colonial Intermediate Unit 20</p>	Jennifer Jones-Baur, Coordinator for Transition Programs & Services	(610) 515-6456	jjonesbaur@ciu20.org
	John Heaney, Supervisor of Special Education	(610) 515-6539	jheaney@ciu20.org
	Sal Lapadula, Project SEARCH Instructor	(570) 856-1799	slapadula@ciu20.org
	Michelle Felloni, CIU20 Skills Trainer	(570) 580-6000 ext 21079	mfelloni@ciu20.org
 <p>Allentown OVR</p>	Cherrell Gaynor, Supervisor of Transition Services	(610) 821-6593	cgaynor@pa.gov
	Cassandra LaVenture, Transition Counselor	(570) 234-1001	claventure@pa.gov
 <p>HRC HUMAN RESOURCES CENTER, INC.</p>	Dawn Daignault, Director of Community Integrated Employment	(570) 872-9956, Ext. 304	Dawn.Daignault@hrcinc.org
	Vacancy		
 <p>Carbon-Monroe-Pike MH/DS</p>	James Furiosi, Quality Manager	(570) 420-1900, Ext. 3434	jfuriosi@cmpmhds.org
 <p>Kalahari - Poconos</p>	Diana Stanukenas, HR Manager/ Point Person for Project SEARCH	(570) 580-6000	dstanukenas@kalahariresorts.com