 **Project SEARCH Kalahari Resorts & Conventions – Poconos**

**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 Kalahari with continual feedback
* Employment in an integrated environment
* Graduation with a formal ceremony
* Outcome of competitive employment

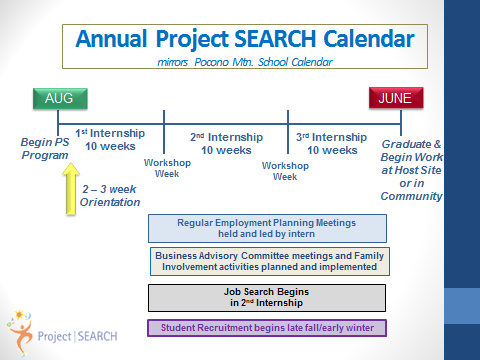
| **Key Ingredients of Internships:** | **Sample Project SEARCH Day:** |
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| * Internships are the cornerstone of the Project SEARCH program | * 8:30 Arrival, Plan for Day, review Daily Gazetti (Kalahari Newspaper) |
| * Interns learn competitive, marketable, and transferable employment skills | * 9:30 Report to departments and participate in internships |
| * Interns participate in training approximately 5 hours per day | * 12:00 Lunch Break |
| * Interns have the opportunity to develop work and social skills in a natural environment | * 12:30 Return to departments and continue internships |
| * Each internship lasts approximately 10 weeks | * 2:00 Review day’s activities, Group instructional time to focus on curriculum and employability skills, and communication among all team members |
| * Evaluation is ongoing | * 3:15 Depart Kalahari |
| **Potential Internship Areas at Kalahari** | |
| Administration:  Filing  Mail Distribution  Inventory | Water Park/ Theme Park:  Slide & Ride Attendants  Cabana Stocking  Towel Distribution  Moving Trash |
| Rooms Division:  Concierge  Door/ Bell Person  Common Area Cleaning  Room Cleaning/ Housemen  Sorting/ Stocking Carts  Laundry  Linen Sorting | Food & Beverage:  Busing Tables  Food Runner  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:   * Intern’s interests and skill sets; team input * Kalahari understands and can accommodate various personalized needs | |

**Eligibility Guidelines and Requirements:**

* Applicant must be 18–21 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 11, 2023: Applications are due.** **Applications received after the due date will also be considered until the Intern Class of 2024 is full.**
* **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’s Contact List** | | | |
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|  | **Contact Person(s):** | **Phone Number:** | **Email:** |
| **Colonial Intermediate Unit 20** | Brooke Tesche, Supervisor of Special Education | (610) 515-6539 | btesche@ciu20.org |
| Jennifer Jones-Baur, Transition Program Specialist | (610) 515-6456 | jjonesbaur@ciu20.org |
| Mason Messinger, Project SEARCH Instructor | (570) 580-6000  ext 21079 | mmessinger@ciu20.org |
| Michelle Felloni, CIU20 Skills Trainer | (570) 580-6000  ext 21079 | mfelloni@ciu20.org |
| Office of Voc Rehab Left 2-color  **Allentown OVR** | Cherrell Gaynor, Supervisor of Transition Services | (610) 821-6593 | cgaynor@pa.gov |
| Cassandra LaVenture, Transition Counselor | (570) 234-1001 | claventure@pa.gov |
|  | Dawn Daignault, Director of Community Integrated Employment | (570) 872-9956,  Ext. 304 | Dawn.Daignault@hrcinc.org |
| Jessica Tierney, HRC Job Developer/ Skills Trainer | (570) 229-5730 | Jessica.Tierney@hrcinc.org |
| Carbon Monroe Pike mental health logo  **Carbon-Monroe-Pike MH/DS** | James Furiosi, Quality Manager | (570) 420-1900,  Ext. 3434 | jfuriosi@cmpmhds.org |
| Picture2  **Kalahari - Poconos** | Diana Stanukenas, HR Manager/ Point Person for Project SEARCH | (570) 580-6000 | dstanukenas@kalahariresorts.com |