

Project Search

Sussex County Educational Services

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"PROJECT SEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO US BECAUSE WE GET INTENSIVE JOB TRAINING, WE ARE LEARNING NEW SKILLS THAT ARE HELPING US BUILD SELF-CONFIDENCE. WE TRULY FEEL LIKE PART OF THE ATLANTIC HEALTH COMMUNITY. BEFORE PROJECT SEARCH SOME OF US FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO WAKE UP FOR SCHOOL EACH DAY. BEING PART OF NEWTON MEDICAL CENTER, WE KNOW THAT OUR TEAM RELIES ON US AND SO OUR ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT. PROJECT SEARCH HAS ALSO HELPED US BUILD A WORK LIFE BALANCE. WE ARE FEELING AMBITIOUS AND EXCITED TO LEARN WHAT OUR NEXT ROTATION WILL BE."

-PROJECT SEARCH CLASS OF 2020

1st Internship Rotation

I can't believe that our first rotation is officially complete! We started off in September with learning to navigate the hospital independently and now we provide full service tours! We had several department presentations and were immediately excited about the new opportunities interning at Newton Medical Center would bring. The most impressive part remains to be the interns' drive and desire to want to work and be a part of this program. They practiced interviewing, designing an elevator pitch for Project Search - Newton Medical Center, patient confidentiality and HIPAA, workplace safety, handwashing and infection. In October, with guidance from NJTips, we took the public transportation to a local job fair and participated in mock interviews.

For our first rotations we were placed in five departments: Materials Management, The Heart Center, Wound Care/Physical Therapy, Food Service, and Laundry and Environmental Services.

Patrick, who makes deliveries for materials, has become the hospital spokesperson and received accolades on his timeliness and independent problem solving skills. Kevin, our Heart Center intern, is a staple for patients who come to the Heart Center a little uneasy and return home with a little pep in their step. Kaci learned more than just how to fold "burritos" a necessary tool for Wound Care patients. She also learned how to handle stressful situations as well as medical emergencies, and remained calm and collected during it all. This was our first and only clinical rotation, which left other interns curious and wanting more exposure to

patient access. Patsy and Nick worked in the cafeteria. Patsy interned in the front-end organizing shelves, preparing the salad bar daily, and wiping tables and chairs, a necessary evil, especially in a hospital. Her infectious smile was talked about by departments near and far. Nick may have been hidden in the back preparing fan favorites like jello, pudding, bacon, and cookies, but don't let that fool you. Nick loved being part of a team and stepped up frequently to volunteer to work longer days just to get the job done. He was a role model in communication and contacted his mentor directly whenever there was a change in the daily schedule.



During the first rotation, we were blown away by the respect, growth, and integrity shown by both Newton Medical Center staff as well as the Project Search Interns. Parents, and even support coordinators were beaming with tear-filled eyes of pride as they toured the

facility and began to see the independent nature of this program. All were shocked at the amount of growth the interns had shown, both at work and at home in just a few short months. The hospital mentors bragged with joy about how they had taken the interns under their wings to teach them all of the skills necessary to be a part of his/her department BUT INSTEAD felt as though THEY had learned more from the interns about work ethic, pride in accomplishments, and not sweating the small stuff. Department secretaries, and admins who simply observed the newly budding relationships have expressed how impressed they were and how much happier their own employees were to come to work each day. Nina McGrath the Heart Center Supervisor, shared that patients have been coming back on purpose to say hello and/or ask about the intern's whereabouts. John Sousa, Supervisor of Environmental Services expressed his desire to promote his next intern to other areas as part of the growth and development of this program.



Diversity Day Celebration with Atlantic Health Administrative Team

To tour the Project Search Program, please email jwesterfield@sussexesc.org