

PROJECT SEARCH UPDATE

In case you haven't heard, CCH is one of 6 hospitals in the state working with Project SEARCH Interns. This program is open to students with disabilities from ages 18 -21 to help them transition to the world of employment, independence and self- sufficiency. **So what are our students up to....**

ON THE JOB

Dennis Becker

- Scanning timecards
- Inputting data in spreadsheets
- Variety of special projects, making new LPN name badges, assembling Board Packets, preparing Explorer's Post mailing, inputting inventory in Paragon

"Working with a lot of different people, I get more experience. We get to do a lot more here, because we're here for more than just one hour. It was fun to be part of the Run, Walk Roll Race, doing something for the community and getting to wear a Halloween costume (Aviator of course!) to work."



Nathan Kasik

- Picking up trash, cutting grass, winterizing plants
- Independently cleaning out storage buildings & 4th floor
- Demo work & moving Sleep Lab

"I like that I can be outside – when it's nice of course, like the fresh air and that I can work by myself and not do the same thing all the time. Favorite time is break time with the guys and the department celebrations where they grill food"

Kelsey Schmidt

- Loading & unloading dishes
- Marking meals for "Meals on Wheels"
- Helping on the Patient Tray Line

"I like the people in the kitchen, made a pumpkin and got to be Brittany Spears for Halloween. I'm going to miss everybody when I'm on vacation."



Patrick Tremel

- Labeling boxes of supplies
- Unloading freight
- Off loading pallets using the hydraulic floor jack

"I like to work hard – I'm strong (Patrick likes to lift weights and show off his muscles) I do labeling, move things, unload freight. I can work by myself, but still get help sometimes. Liked to be a werewolf for Halloween."

Crystal Walker

- Folding rags and stocking
- Doing Float duties independently
- Cleaning after dismissals

"Work is fun! Love to clean the rooms in same Day Services, it's calm. It's work I get to do by myself. Liked Housekeeping week, had pizza, grilled burgers and they gave us presents. I was Dr. Fraydy Katz for Halloween" tee-hee



Contributing to our Culture

[We Can Run, Walk & Roll Race](#)

Dennis & Crystal had a lot of fun volunteering for this event; they came early, checked out all of the festivities. They were asked to help by positioning the 9 min-milers and then hustled over to the finish line where they passed 400 bottles of water as racers crossed the finish line. *Phew... that was exhausting!*



[Cake Benefit for Food Pantry](#)

Kelsey really loves 2 things.... Food and Halloween! So the Skilled Nursing Unit's cake contest/food party benefit was perfect. It started with Deanna Douglas, our job coach, asking Kelsey about adding a pumpkin patch design and then all the kids got involved. The result was *Spooktacular!*

[Halloween Costumes](#)

What timing! Scott Messersmith's e-mail telling staff about allowable Halloween costumes came just as Deanna was talking about what the students were doing for Halloween. They, well almost all of them, were excited that they could bring some Halloween fun to work. *We know that Patrick had a howling good time!* But in the end, everyone participated and had fun.



*A NOTE OF THANKS – Deanna wants to **thank all of the mentors.** “Project Search has been a wonderful experience for us all. Each individual intern is developing skills which they will be able to use in a practical sense in the job place and, in addition, each are growing on a personal level. This personal growth (confidence, socialization, self esteem) is largely due to the relationships they are developing with their mentors and co-workers, who we cannot thank enough.”*

WHAT'S NEXT?

On November 14th the students began their next rotations:

- Dennis – is helping out in SPD
- Nathan – is helping out in Nutrition Services
- Kelsey – is helping out in Housekeeping
- Patrick – is helping out in Plant Operations
- Crystal - is helping out in HR and Rehab Services

If you would like any more information about the program, or if your department has any tasks or projects for the students to work on, please contact Reye Snitily at 3321. Also, when you see the students, please wish them well in their new rotations!