

Resources for Lifelong Learning Opportunities

Central Ohio Transition Bootcamp

April 2021

COLLEGE EXPERIENCES

- [OSU TOPS Program | Transition Options in Postsecondary Settings for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)
 - o Contact: Mallory Workman, Mallory.Workman@osumc.edu

- CSCC COMPETE program - [TOPS Project Summary.pdf \(csc.edu\)](#)
 - o Contact: Mandy Mernedakis, mmernedakis@csc.edu
614-287-5098

VOCATIONAL TRAINING - Project SEARCH programs in Central Ohio

I did some digging into Project SEARCH to find out more about how the programs are made available to students. It seems that most of the projects are coordinated through a school district or career center. I got a list of all projects in Ohio for 2021 and reached out to those in Central Ohio for more information. I've included the responses I received here:

- **Grady Memorial Hospital** (through Delaware Area Career Center)
Contact: Maddy Shumaker - shumakerm@delawareareacc.org

Only districts that feed into our career center are eligible for our program. Those districts include: Olentangy, Delaware City, Big Walnut, Buckeye Valley, Worthington and Westerville. Typically families are referred to us through their home district. Families can find more information about our program throughout district website. We have been in our site this whole year! We started the year as a hybrid model, having half our interns every other day, but we are now back to a normal schedule of all 8 interns 5 days a week!

- **Hilton Easton** (through Columbus City Schools):
Contact: Jennifer Flaus - jflaus1768@columbus.k12.oh.us

I am the Project SEARCH Instructor with Columbus City Schools. At this time, we only work with students who are enrolled in our district, and they are referred through their Transition Coordinator at their high school. We did not have a host site this year due to COVID but plan on beginning next school year at the Hilton at Easton. We partner with Functional Training Services who provides the job coaches during the school year and job developers once they reach the job development stage, usually after completing the program. Thanks for getting the word out about Project SEARCH!

PROJECT SEARCH (continued)

- **Nationwide Children's Hospital** (through ESCCO):
Contact: Laurie McKnight - lauriemcknight@msn.com

I am the instructor for the Nationwide Children's Hospital Project SEARCH program. This was the first year of our program. Unfortunately, due to COVID we were unable to be at NCH. Instead, we have been at LifeCare Alliance (Meals on Wheels). We do not yet know which location we will be at for the 2021-2022 program year.

The Educational Service Center (ESC) of Central Ohio is our education partner; therefore, our Project SEARCH program is open to post-secondary students from any school district in Franklin or closely surrounding counties. However, the school district must agree to support the student attending our program. This requires financial support and transportation of the student to and from the program. (We've had/will have interns from Olentangy, Dublin, Worthington, Grandview Heights, and Groveport Madison so far. I know Columbus does not support us since they have their own Project SEARCH program as Jennifer mentioned.) The ESC sends notice to the school districts about our program and transition coordinators promote it to students and families. We have already selected our interns for next year's program, but please let people know about us for the following year. Let me know if you have further questions.

- **OhioHealth Doctors Hospital** (through Southwestern City School District):
Contact: Jennifer Javorsky – Jennifer.javorsky@swcsd.us

Our program is through the South-Western City School District -- students must reside in our district in order to participate in our program. Our interns are referred to the program by their high school transition coordinators (it is really a team effort -- I work very closely with our district transition coordinators). Our host business is OhioHealth Doctors Hospital. We started our school year at the hospital but unfortunately when COVID numbers started to spike in November we had to take a step back (our hospital was one of the main sites with OhioHealth for housing ICU patients). We were remote from Thanksgiving until Winter Break (this gave us the opportunity to focus solely on curriculum) and then we started at a new business in January 2021 -- LBrands. It has been a challenge but we are grateful that our interns have been able to stay active in using work skills. We plan to return to Doctors Hospital for the 2021/2022 school year.

- **Designer Shoe Warehouse** (through Goodwill Industries):
Contact: Raven Williams raven.williams@gwcols.com

I am the Coordinator of Project SEARCH DSW. We receive referrals through FCBDD and OOD. We work with schools (Transition Teams) once they contact us for a tour. My site is run out of a distribution center. I partner with Rebecca Ackerman more often than other Project SEARCH sites because we are the same services just different locations and companies. If anyone would like to tour to see what we do please reach out.

PROJECT SEARCH (cont.)

- **Dublin Methodist Hospital** (through Tolles Career Center)
Contact: Kelley Kobashigawa - kkobashigawa@tollestechnology.com

I am the Instructor/Coordinator for the Project Search program at Dublin Methodist Hospital. This program is a Tolles Career & Technical Center program and we accept students who attend the schools that feed into Tolles. These are Hilliard City Schools, Dublin City Schools, Plain City Schools, West Jefferson Schools, London City Schools, and Madison Plains Schools, Most student referrals come from the transition coordinators or special education directors of each school. Periodically I am get a referral from an OOD counselor. I've also received applications directly from parents.

This is the 12th year of Project Search at Dublin Methodist. We are in the hospital this year. They had no hesitation allowing us back. Because of our smaller classroom we started with a hybrid schedule. We are still on a hybrid schedule because of the classroom situation. The hospital had no problems allowing all students to be here, it was a Tolles decision to remain on a hybrid schedule.

People may find out more information about this program by going to the Tolles Tech web site. On the web site they would choose the "high school" heading and then school down to the "special education tab". Project Search is first on the list under the special education heading. There is a section labeled "What is Project Search? It explains the program and also gives a snapshot of a typical day at PS> There is a video tour as well as tabs with requirements, important dates, rotations, goals and the course of study. Under this is a video of our PS program. I hope this helps!

Classes for practical LIFE SKILLS or new fun HOBBIES

- ADDventures/Hattie Larlham
 - o [Addventures | Hattie Larlham | Care and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Ohio](#)
 - o Contact: Liz Jones, EJones@ADDOHIO.org
614-259-0202
- Goodwill Columbus continuing ed classes
 - o [Social & Educational Programs | Goodwill Columbus](#)
 - o Contact: Dottie Paxton - Dottie.Paxton@gwcols.com

Article from *Exceptional Parent* magazine:

- <https://reader.mediawiremobile.com/epmagazine/issues/207023/viewer?page=31>

“The most important thing you learn in school is **how to learn.” — Derrick Fung**