



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Hampton Inn & Suites, Mulvane

Connie Sneeringer
Project SEARCH Instructor
(316) 737-1793
csneeringer@usd263.org

Workforce Alliance

Angie Duntz
Communications Manager
(316) 771-6606
aduntz@workforce-ks.com

Date: April 12, 2016

WICHITA WORKFORCE CENTER AND PROJECT SEARCH TO HOST REVERSE JOB FAIR

WICHITA, KS - The Wichita area Project SEARCH Interns will be participating in the First Reverse Job Fair, Wednesday, April 13th, 10:00 to 12:00 Noon at Wichita Workforce Center, 21st and Amidon. We are appreciative of the generous assistance of Workforce Centers of South Central Kansas (<http://workforce-ks.com/>) and the Business Leadership Network of Sedgwick County (<http://www.blmsg.org/index.php/project-search-b-a-c>) in hosting the Reverse Job Fair.

Project SEARCH interns current host business sites include:

- Hampton Inn and Suites at the Kansas Star Mulvane (USD 263 Mulvane)
- McConnell Air Force Base (USD 260 Derby)
- Via Christi Medical Center, St. Francis and
- Sedgwick County Government Buildings (USD 259 Wichita)

Project SEARCH is an education and employment skills program for high school youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in their last year of high school eligibility or are currently eligible for day services at a participating provider. Interns are immersed in work environment at a host business site for three unpaid internship rotations across nine months. The internships are designed to teach marketable, transferable, competitive work skills with the desired outcome of community employment. Project SEARCH was initially developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Ohio.

<http://www.projectsearch.us/Home.aspx>

-more-

- There are currently over 380 Project SEARCH sites in 45 states and 5 countries internationally.
- Kansas currently has 11 Project SEARCH sites in 8 different communities including two adult sites.
- Interns work closely with the staff at their host site during the academic year learning transferrable employment skills. Interns also meet throughout the year with their Employment Planning Team which consists of their case managers/counselors of Kansas Vocational Rehabilitation (<http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/RS/Pages/Employment-Services.aspx>), County Developmental Disabilities Organization (<http://www.sedgwickcounty.org/cddo>), school district support, host business site and family.

The 25 Project SEARCH Interns included in the Reverse Job Fair have worked very hard this year in perfecting their employment skills and are now in the process of seeking employment. Some will find employment with their host business sites; others will find employment within the community.

Please help us SPREAD THE NEWS about the Project SEARCH Interns and their accomplishments during this year as they embark on the path toward meaningful, independent employment.

The Workforce Alliance is the Administrative Entity, One Stop Operator, and Program Administrator for Local Area IV in Kansas, which includes the counties of Butler, Cowley, Harper, Kingman, Sedgwick and Sumner. Operations for Local Area IV are directed by the Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB). The daily operations of the LWIB are carried out by a professional staff, led by a President and Chief Executive Officer. For additional information on the Workforce Alliance please visit www.workforce-ks.com

###