

# EMPLOYMENT FIRST

APRIL 2015



## PROJECT SEARCH

The Allen County Board of DD has partnered with St. Rita's Medical Center, local area schools and VR Contract/OOD to host a Project SEARCH program in Lima. Project SEARCH is a nine month transition program which provides internships and education leading to employment for students with disabilities.

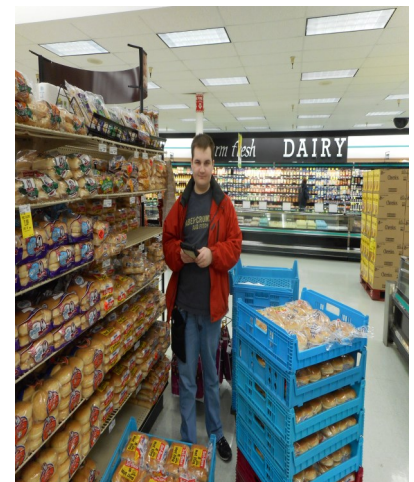
Each day, students report to St. Rita's Medical Center, learn employability skills and job skills while participating in three non-paid internships during the year. Students participate in regular employment planning meetings to define their career goal and plan necessary steps to achieve that goal. There are currently nine students in the

program. Managers at the internship sites will work with the Project SEARCH instructor and job coaches to support the students. Students get continual feedback. They end their day by reflection, problem solving, planning and journaling their thoughts from the day. The ultimate goal upon program completion is competitive employment utilizing the job skills learned on the internships throughout the program.

The nine students this year are now ready to put their skills to use and embark upon a community job. The interns go out with their job developers

each week, filling out applications and talking with employers about their abilities. Thus far, five of the nine students have already obtained employment! These sites include: a housekeeping position at Richland Manor, a packaging position at Range Kleen Manufacturing, Inc. (through Minute Man staffing), a bagger/courtesy clerk at Kroger's, a merchandiser at Lewis Bakeries and a custodian position at Ohio State University Lima under probationary status. Several of the other students are having interviews as we work towards our goal of 100% placement! Graduation will be May 21, 2015, 12-2p

There are still openings for our 2015-2016 class. Please contact Leigh Taylor, Project SEARCH instructor at 419-296-8491 or email at [ltaylor@acbdd.org](mailto:ltaylor@acbdd.org) if you would like additional information.



Pictured from left to right: Liza at OSU, Kalene at Kroger, and Mitch with Lewis Bakeries.