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May 2024



Spartan Project SEARCH 2023-24

[Spartan Project SEARCH](#) is a one-year, school-to-work, transition program that provides training and education through internships within departments throughout Michigan State University. Collaboratively, the program prepares young adults with disabilities to enter the workforce with marketable and transferable skills. Spartan Project SEARCH is sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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Spartan Project SEARCH 2023-24 Cohort

April is the beginning of spring and a sign that graduation is right around the corner. Interns returned from Spring Break ready to get back to work and continue to work on their employability skills.

In the classroom, interns have explored how to fill out job applications, looked to see what jobs are open in our area, done self-assessments on their work skills, and started exploring character traits and understanding themselves. They also completed their first Employment Planning Meetings of the internship and practiced talking about their strengths and weaknesses.

Interns participated in mindfulness lessons with Mr. Z to work on understanding their emotions and ways to properly regulate themselves. Disability Network also visited our class and discussed Emergency Preparedness. Lastly, interns worked on their public speaking skills to present on what they have done this year when our State Legislative Representative visited to learn more about Project SEARCH.

Interns continue to work hard and learn more skills as they near the last month of the school year. They are all excited to reach graduation and get hired in paying jobs.



Save the Date!

Welcome Meeting for Accepted Applicants is Tuesday May 14, 3pm at Owen Graduate Hall Rm. W109

Graduation is Wednesday, June 5, 11am - 1pm at Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture Atrium

Rotation 2 Job Sites & Supervisors

Vivarium - Kim Williamson
Case Dining Hall - Susie Burke
MSU Main Library - Heidi Schroeder
MSU Linen Services - Donna Svendsen
Sparty's at The Union - Kelly Smith
Sparty's at Hubbard Hall- Jesse Mendez
The Workshop- Lisa Miller



Project SEARCH Collaboration Campus Visit



April 10 was an exciting day for our program. We spent the morning discussing the impact and success stories of our Project SEARCH program to State Representative Regina Weiss (Chair of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee for School Aid and Education).

In addition to Rep. Wise, we also met with staff from Ingham Intermediate School District and our own Superintendent Jason Mellema, our business Liaison Ben Darling and Dr. Mia Farrell (Associate Dean and Director Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) with the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Matt Kurta (Karoub Associates), Ben Hicks (Associate Director of MAASE) and Sarah Winslow (Statewide Project SEARCH Director).

Interns spent the morning sharing about the things they have learned and the impact Project SEARCH has had on them. We also met with a graduate who is working on campus and he shared about his successes.



Representative Wise was presented with a plaque to recognize her "Leadership in Action" for her support toward transition and continuing education programs.

Graduate Spotlight

Amber Barwick has been employed at MSU Dining Halls since June 2019.



Visit our Website

Upcoming Dates of Interest

- May 3: Half Day
 - May 14: Welcome Event (Owen Hall)
 - May 22: Final Employment Planning Meetings
 - May 24: Half Day
 - May 27: No School
 - June 5: Half Day & Graduation
-



Check Out Our
New Intern Impact
Video



Check out our
New Spartan
Project SEARCH
Video

Apply for Project SEARCH

If you are interested in applying for Spartan Project SEARCH, you can find more information on our website at [Spartan Project SEARCH](https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Spartan-Project-SEARCH-Newsletter---May-2024.html?soid=1118295573734&aid=jpck2bBae7w).

On the Banks of the Red Cedar



Congratulations Marco!!

Marco has been promoted to Culinary Platform Attendant (CPA or Head Student Cook) and officially got his white jacket. Marco has been working at Case Dining Hall since September of 2023.



Congratulations & Happy Retirement!

A huge shout out to Donna Svendsen on her retirement. Donna, supervisor at MSU Linen Services, has been involved with Spartan Project SEARCH since it started in 2016. We can't thank you enough for the impact you have made on so many. Go Green!





Congratulations & Happy Retirement!

A huge shout out to Chandos McCoy on his retirement. Chandos, supervisor for Sparty's Cafe, has been involved with Spartan Project SEARCH since it started in 2016. We can't thank you enough for the impact you have made on so many. Go White!



Spartan Project SEARCH
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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If you are interested in Spartan Project SEARCH and/or would like to host an intern, please contact [Brooke Locher](#), Instructor.

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A Regional Educational Service Agency

Company Name | Website

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