

PROJECT SEARCH AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY



JUNE 2017

2016-2017 COHORT CELEBRATES CLOSING CEREMONY

PROJECT SEARCH 2016-2017 INTERNS

Bryan Bethea
DeShaun Cole
Michael Czekaj
Yasom Davis
Christian Kears
Kyle Lee
Adrienne Walls
Christian Williams



Left to right: Cynthia Santiago (instructor), Bryan Bethea, Paul Barth (job coach), Adrienne Walls, Christian Williams, Anthony Majewski (Principal, Hill-Freedman World Academy), Yasom Davis, Christian Kears, Deshaun Cole, Kyle Lee, Diane Touey (job coach)

On June 15th, 2017, parents, families, department managers, and steering committee members gathered to celebrate the end of the first year for Project SEARCH at Drexel University. During the hour-long ceremony, attendees heard memories of a monumental inaugural year. Each intern accepted a certificate of participation from the Project SEARCH Classroom Team.

The day marked a pivotal moment for each participant. The interns had successfully transitioned from the traditional school setting to Drexel University and completed three internships over the course of the year. They gained valuable experience and transferrable skills to take with them in their search for competitive, paid employment. "It helped me grow as a person," said intern DeShaun Cole.

As of July 2017, five of the interns had already secured employment in the community, and the others are actively searching. "This is very exciting news for him and us as a family. This is all we ever dreamed of for him," says Latrace Nichols, mother of Yasom Davis.

The Project SEARCH team would like to thank its partners – Drexel University, The Philadelphia School District, The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, The Department of Behavioral Health and disAbility Services, Community Integrated Services, and the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute – Transition Pathways. We look forward to the next cohort and wish the first group the best in their transition to employment.

Transition Pathways

A.J. Drexel Autism Institute
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www.drexel.edu/autisminstitute/projectsearch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V31v4DGIJ1U&t=94s>



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