

# PROJECT SEARCH AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2019



DREXEL UNIVERSITY  
A.J. Drexel  
Autism Institute

## Project SEARCH Interns Start Their Job Search

Drexel University's third group of Project SEARCH interns finished their final internship rotation. Since completing the program in May 2019, interns are working on getting a job. Eight interns worked in over 12 different departments on Drexel University's campus. The interns have enjoyed working in the departments and are excited to apply the skills they've learned to their next job!

The Project SEARCH interns posing on Drexel's campus. From left: James M., Clifford R., Armani F., Micah M., Elijah W., Isaac M., Imed B., and Keeshaun S.



## Meet the Interns

**Elijah** recently finished his final internship at Project SEARCH at Drexel University. His third rotation was at Barnes and Noble where he worked in the merchandising department to stock items, fold merchandise and check inventory. Previously, Elijah completed internships at Drexel Parking Services and the Recreation Center. Managers and staff at Barnes and Noble recall Elijah greeting them with a smile every morning and having a "ready to work attitude." "He's self-driven, observant and thorough," says Barnes and Noble manager, Ellen McDougle. "He can anticipate a need and jumps in to assist." Reflecting on his experience with Project Search, Elijah said that showing up on time and doing a good job would help him in the future, as he plans to get a job and take responsibility for bills.

**Micah** was also an intern at Barnes and Noble. As part of Project SEARCH, he completed internship rotations at the Student Center, Baiada Institute for Entrepreneurship, and the Dragon Card office. Micah did quality assurance and said he enjoyed working at different departments within Drexel University and being part of a team. At Barnes and Noble, part of Micah's quality assurance responsibilities were tracking and stocking vending machine inventory. Store managers really enjoyed having Micah as part of the team. Micah has a goal to gain new job skills and the independence needed to obtain employment.

### 2018-2019 Project SEARCH Internship Sites

- Barnes and Noble
- Student Center
- A.J. Drexel Autism Institute
- Dragon Card Office
- ExCITe Center
- LeBow College of Business
- Baiada Institute for Entrepreneurship
- Student Life
- Daskalakis Athletic Center
- Office of Equality and Diversity
- Office of Institutional Advancement
- Dornsife Center
- Parking Services

# What happens **after** Project SEARCH?

After completing Project SEARCH, the former interns continue to work with **Community Integrated Services**, a supported employment agency that helps individuals find and maintain competitive integrated employment.

Former interns also participate in active job-seeking activities such as attending job fairs, mock interviews, and learning new travel routes.

*“A job developer’s role is to support Project SEARCH graduates with the job-seeking process, which includes a wide array of services: researching job openings, employer outreach, completing job applications, interview preparation and eventually onboarding and orientation once a job offer is received.”*

**David Downey**  
Business Development Specialist at  
Community Integrated Services

## Former interns are currently working at...

- Stitch Data
- CVS
- Best Buy
- SoFive Soccer Center
- Morgan and Akins, PLLC
- Community Integrated Services
- Bridesburg Commissary
- Fresh Grocer
- Philadelphia International Airport

## Benefits of Hiring a Project SEARCH Intern

- Access to new, diverse labor pool with skills that match business needs
- Increased performance and retention in entry-level positions
- Reduced recruiting costs
- On-site job supports at no cost
- Financial incentives for the employer

## Interested in hiring a Project SEARCH intern?

Please send your inquiries to:

David P. Downey, Business Development Specialist |  
(215) 238-7411 | [david.downey@cisworks.org](mailto:david.downey@cisworks.org)



**Project SEARCH** was developed and introduced at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in 1996. Since its inception, Project SEARCH has grown from a single program site at Cincinnati Children’s to over 300 sites across the United States and Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Australia. Project SEARCH’s primary objective is to secure competitive employment for people with disabilities.

Drexel University is one of the first universities to adopt and pilot test a modified autism-specific version of the Project SEARCH model. Project SEARCH at Drexel University is a collaboration between the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute - Transition Pathways, Philadelphia School District – Hill Freedman World Academy, The Philadelphia Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Intellectual disAbility Services, and Community Integrated Services.

Learn more about Project SEARCH and other Transition Pathways programs at <http://drexel.edu/autisminstitute/research-projects/projects/Transition-Pathways/>

You can reach us at [projectsearch@drexel.edu](mailto:projectsearch@drexel.edu) and **215-571-3213**.



**Life Course Outcomes**  
Transition Pathways