

Bow School District
Special Education Department
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SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPORT
PREPARED OCTOBER 25, 2010 FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2010
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

This month's Special Education Department Report I will provide a description of an exciting program available to Bow students.

On August 31, 2010, Project Search began its first internship program at Concord Hospital. Project Search is a joint effort between Community Bridges, Concord Hospital, Concord School District, and New Hampshire Vocational Rehabilitation.

The birth of this program took place at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati. Project SEARCH was an effort to bring diversity to the hospital's workforce and fill entry level positions. This humble beginning has led to Project SEARCH programs around the country and world. It came to New Hampshire first in Nashua and is now in Concord. The program is totally offered within the hospital including all necessary supports and instruction.

The Project SEARCH program provides students with a one year internship to students with disabilities. The program is geared primarily to students in their final year in high school but also has accepted young adults. Bow has been very fortunate to have one current student and two former students accepted and participating in the inaugural year.

This program takes place at Concord Hospital and provides classroom instruction, career exploration, on-the-job training, and support. It is geared to student with a goal to be competitively employed in the field of healthcare or related fields. The program is built around a series of internships. Practical real-life work experience and training is utilized to develop employability and independent living skills.

The eligibility criteria to be accepted in the Concord Hospital Project SEARCH are that an individual must be:

- 19-21 years old
- Ready to transition from high school
- Desires to work in the community
- Be willing to access independent transportation options, as needed
- Meet all academic requirements for graduation (with deferred graduation)
- Has basic communication skills
- Has appropriate social, grooming and hygiene skills
- Has independent self care skills
- Can pass a drug screen and felony check upon employment
- Has updated immunizations
- Eligible for New Hampshire Vocational Rehabilitation & Community Bridges Services

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Ferreira

Director of Special Education