

## Teaching Career Readiness

Project | SEARCH®



# Project SEARCH®

## At the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC)

**Newsletter**  
**Spring 2019**

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## Moving Ahead

The spring season is here and there is much excitement and anticipation as the Project Search interns prepare for graduation and their futures. Throughout the year, the interns have learned important workplace skills and have had the opportunity to put those skills into practice in their various internship sites.

The program focus recently has been to solidify those skills and prepare for competitive employment. The interns have developed resumes, have worked on completing applications, figured out the types of jobs they would like to apply for and if they have the skills and experience to apply for those positions. The interns practiced doing interviews with each other and were able to provide feedback through the use of a rubric. Jamilyn Bradley, Human Resources Business Partner at URM, conducted mock interviews with each of the interns. This gave them another opportunity to practice and prepare for actual interviews. The interns were provided with valuable feedback and coaching to effectively answer situational questions that will be encountered as they interview for competitive positions. A very special thank you to Jamilyn for taking her time to provide this valuable experience for the interns. We look forward to graduation as the Class of 2019 moves ahead taking with them all that they have achieved and learned into their futures.

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## Meet The Staff:

### Liz Beairsto, Social Worker - Project SEARCH



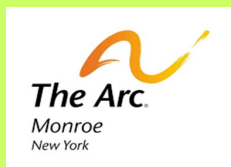
This is Liz's second year providing social work support to the interns at Project SEARCH. During her 24 years at BOCES, Liz has worked in a variety of programs. Liz has worked with preschoolers, pregnant and parenting teens, and teenagers in an Alternative High School. Prior to her work at BOCES, Liz worked in several residential programs for teens and at a shelter for homeless women and children. Liz provides support and assistance to the Project SEARCH interns by facilitating team building and learning activities, meeting with the interns to help them problem-solve issues they might be dealing with, and encouraging and fostering independence as the interns plan for their lives after Project Search. Liz appreciates the unique learning opportunities Project SEARCH can provide and finds the interns' enthusiasm and dedication inspiring. When Liz is not working, she enjoys traveling, reading, writing, walking and spending time with her family and friends.

### Colette Savage, Student Behavioral Assistant



Colette brings a wide variety of job skills to Project SEARCH. She has worked in a factory, in retail positions, as a preschool teacher, scout leader and has even worked in a bingo hall. She graduated from SUNY Brockport. After graduation, she worked alongside her husband to build a business. After the birth of her children, Colette worked as a Child Care Associate for Greece Central School District. Most recently, Colette has worked as a Student Behavioral Assistant with Monroe 2 BOCES. Here at Project SEARCH, Colette uses this diverse skill set to support the interns in the training room and at their various job sites at URM. She is in awe at the level of growth the interns display as the year goes by. When not at Project SEARCH, Colette divides her time between her 3 kids and their families. Colette is also a well-respected member of Rochester's art community, teaching pastel painting and drawing classes.

### OUR PARTNERS





# In the Spotlight



## Nicolas D'Olive—HIRED

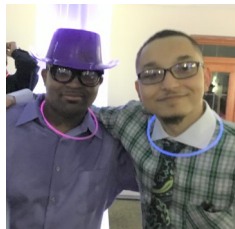
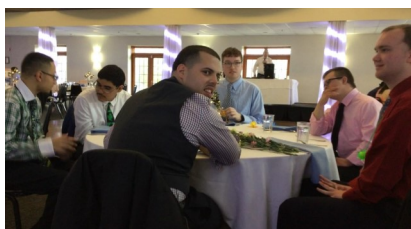
To say that Nick D'Olive wasn't thrilled to be a part of Project SEARCH when the program year began in September, would be an understatement. "I came to Project SEARCH to get out of going to school for two more years," Nick said. At that time, Nick felt he already knew everything he needed to know in order to get a job and keep it. However over the past eight months at Project SEARCH, that opinion began to change as Nick learned what it meant to become employable and after being able to put those skills into practice every day on his internship sites. Today, Nick has become the first intern from the Project SEARCH class of 2019 to become fully employed at URM. He is very happy and proud of this accomplishment. Nick said that being in Project SEARCH this year has made a difference and has helped him to gain confidence and to obtain the skills he needed to land a job. Now Nick is looking at future goals such as getting a car and an apartment. We wish Nick much success with his new job and with his plans for the future.

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## Project SEARCH Interns Enjoy the Dinner-Dance

On Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, seven interns from Project Search, attended the BOCES 2 Spring Dinner-Dance. There was a great deal of excitement prior to the dance from the interns as they anticipated and prepared for this event including new outfits, haircuts and plans to meet old friends and classmates and catch up with teachers and staff members.

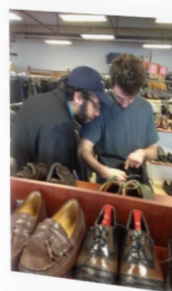
The interns arrived, got their pictures taken, and enjoyed interacting with each other as they enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and a buffet dinner. Once the music started all seven of them hit the dance floor and danced the night away. From the buffet line to the conga line, the interns enjoyed every minute of the dance. Their enthusiasm and joy was contagious. Everyone there left with smiles on their faces and memories to last a lifetime.



## Dress for Success!

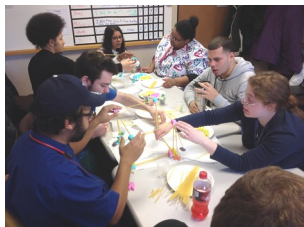
In April, the Project SEARCH interns at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) had the opportunity to visit the Volunteers of America of Western New York to receive professional business attire for job interviewing. The Working Wardrobe Program provided the interns with new or gently used suits, shirts and accessories (ties, belts, shoes) free of charge. Having learned the importance of making a good first impression, the interns were excited to choose outfits that projected an image of success. They enjoyed a day of shopping, trying on clothes and deciding which outfit gave them the most confidence for their upcoming interviews.

The Monroe2-Orleans BOCES Project SEARCH interns would like to thank the VOA (Volunteers of America) Working Wardrobe for their generosity and continued support.



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## Team building at Project SEARCH



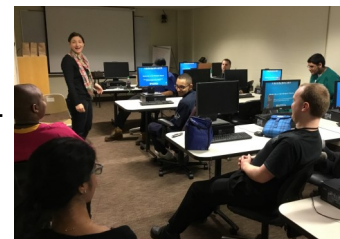
Friday morning from 7:45 until 8:45 a.m. has come to be known as “Team Building Friday”. This is the time the interns spend in the training room before heading to their internship sites. Our social worker, Liz Beairisto, plans and facilitates activities to engage the interns. These activities are designed to help interns build skills, share ideas, and learn to work together. A favorite activity this year has been the “Marshmallow and Pasta Challenge”. Students were given marshmallows, pasta and gum drops. Teams were asked to build a tall tower using the items they were given. This activity challenged the interns to work together, communicate with each other, and find the best way to build their tower. Other team building topics have included communication skills, healthy relationships, and stress management. Team Building Friday has helped the interns get to know one another, have some fun and learn skills that will help them at work and in their life outside of work.



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## Health and Wellness at Project SEARCH

The Project Search interns and staff members have had several great opportunities this spring to focus on health and wellness. We were fortunate to have Lisa Chidsey, a LEND Fellow from the University of Rochester’s Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics join us. LEND stands for Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities. LEND is an interdisciplinary training program focused on improving the health of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and special health care needs. Lisa provided training focused on managing stress by natural means. We learned about Mindfulness, Chair Yoga, Meditation Tips, and Stress Management. The interns really enjoyed the experience and not only internalized the strategies but put them into practice.



Jonathan Payne is a former Project Search intern, an employee at URMC’s Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities. and a self-advocate. Jonathan comes each Thursday to facilitate a group with the interns to promote skill building and discussion of work challenges and successes. He provided a challenge to the interns to count their daily steps by using apps on their phones, pedometers or Fit Bits. The interns are keeping weekly logs to monitor their steps. The goal is to keep moving in order to stay fit.

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For more information about Project SEARCH®, please contact Kaitlyn Richardson, NYS Project SEARCH® Coordinator, Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities:

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For more information, contact Nicole Littlewood at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES (585) 617-2439.  
nlittlew@monroe2boces.org.

Check us out -

We're on the Web!

[www.projectsearch.urmc.edu](http://www.projectsearch.urmc.edu)

## Upcoming Events at Project SEARCH®

### May & June

- 5/14 { Intern Team Meetings
- 5/16 { Intern Team Meetings
- 5/21 { Intern Team Meetings
- 5/24 Memorial Day Recess - No Program
- 5/27 Memorial Day-No Program
- 6/18 Last day of 3rd internship site rotation
- 6/19-25 Workshop Week/Skill Building
- 6/20 Graduation & Celebration of Achievement
- 6/25 Final day of program

## SAVE THE DATE!

Project SEARCH® at URMCC  
Class of 2019

Graduation and Celebration of  
Achievement

June 20, 2019  
12:30 – 2:00 PM

Saunders Research Building  
Atrium  
265 Crittenden Blvd.



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## Interns on the Job Third Internship Rotation



Maria-Stock Orders



Anthony-Porter



Bi'ron-NICU



Jamel-Cold food Prep



Michael-Equipment  
Transport



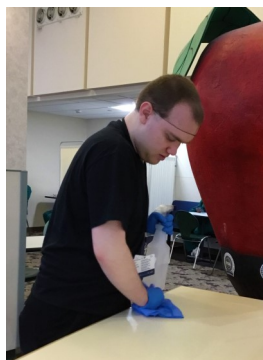
Shayna-Env. Service Office



Matt-Hospital Stores



Nick-Env. Service-Totes



James-Café 601  
Dining Room Assistant



Mamata-Employee Pharmacy



Brandon-AC-6