



News release
June 14, 2019

Local organizations partner to create opportunities for students with disabilities

Project SEARCH at Providence serves Everett Public Schools students

EVERETT – Everett Public Schools, Providence Regional Medical Center Everett (PRMCE), Work Opportunities, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Snohomish County Department of Human Services have established a partnership to implement Project SEARCH at Providence – a business hosted innovative school-to-work transition program for students with significant disabilities. This is an opportunity for Everett Public Schools students with significant disabilities, who are in their final year of school, and who qualify for special education services to learn workplace skills and emerge from the program ready for employment.



Representatives from all involved agencies gather to sign on the dotted line to make the partnership official

By teaching time management, problem solving, and other skills, Project SEARCH helps students make the transition from school to work. The program boosts students' confidence and empowers them to succeed in the workforce. "We are very excited about this partnership and Project SEARCH because of the immediate benefits to students and the community. I am eager to see the potential opportunities that may grow from this project," states Dr. Rebecca Clifford, executive director of special services for Everett Public Schools.

The goals of the program are:

- to provide internship opportunities for a minimum of 8 to 12 student participants per school year who qualify for special education services
- to obtain competitive employment for each intern that completes the program, according to Project SEARCH successful placement guidelines
- to develop a minimum of 10 to 15 internship sites during the first school year of the program, and continue to develop work sites as the program progresses

"The Project SEARCH partnership is an extension of Providence's mission and core values in recognizing the unique needs of persons with disabilities," said Kim Williams, Chief Executive Officer of Providence Northwest Washington. "With the support from other community leaders, we will provide these students the opportunity to gain valuable work and social skills through a transition-to-work program to increase employment opportunities for qualified persons with disabilities within the community."

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The program will be based at Providence Regional Medical Center Everett and will start this September. Project Search at Providence is sponsored in part by a grant from The Boeing Company.

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