

Spartan Project SEARCH Intern Experiences: Our Impact Transcript

00:00:17:22 - 00:00:30:20

Ann O'Neill

So I have two students right now, T.J. and Sean. And what we try and do here in the culinary area is move them around to different venues. They get a little bit of experience doing a lot of things.

00:00:31:00 - 00:00:36:18

TJ Shuster

I'm entering a case dining hall where I food prep and serve students food.

00:00:37:04 - 00:00:41:11

Ann O'Neill

He's learning to make pizzas and make sandwiches and wraps.

00:00:41:16 - 00:00:50:11

TJ Shuster

It's increasing my decision making skills and my communication and my confidence.

00:00:50:17 - 00:01:14:21

Ann O'Neill

Sean has actually been here for a semester, so he's sort of more experienced. He, right now is working in our little store called Sparty's. He is learning how to stock shelves to organize the coolers. It's, I think, such a great experience for the young men and women who come here in these internships to learn these skills.

00:01:15:02 - 00:01:35:10

TJ Shuster

I've worked at Sparty's at Holden Hall linens, and then I worked at Animal Resource Center and then I did data entry at Erickson is to get more job experiences and learn independent skills, hopefully get a job at MSU.

00:01:35:20 - 00:01:56:10

Benjamin Darling

The goals for Michigan State and having a relationship with Project Search for the interns to have a wide variety of opportunities to look at different things of what they can do and what they're interested in. But then also having Projects Search be a part of the MSU community is it's it's part of our diversity equity and inclusion strategic plan.

00:01:56:13 - 00:02:23:03

Benjamin Darling

We want to continue to push that have project search be right up there in that program. And so when we do that again, that is not only a benefit to the interns and to the project search, but it gives our people, our departments, our staff, our students, MSU students opportunity to have those interactions and realize that there are ways that we can do this and do things really good and everybody benefits.

00:02:23:03 - 00:02:24:00

Benjamin Darling

So win wins.

00:02:24:06 - 00:02:44:12

Evan Buczkowski

Why did I want to join Project Search? Because I wanted a chance to gain new skills. I wanted to be able to work independently and work by myself so I could get a job one day. Currently, at 1855 place, I vacuum the halls and I clean and I also dust and vacuum.

00:02:44:22 - 00:03:04:01

Charlie Thompson-Orsua

They have the chance to work in three different locations. They're going to meet multiple people that could be potential employers down the line. They have the chance to interact with a lot of different coworkers. And so build some of those skills, you know, and those that take pride and work hard. They are they are building opportunities. I've also enjoyed the relationship.

00:03:04:01 - 00:03:19:07

Charlie Thompson-Orsua

It's nice to see interns that really value this experience. It's also nice when we have an intern who's really committed to what their responsibilities are, and it's nice for me to tell my rest of my team, you know, look at so-and-so, look at how much care they're taking at what they're doing.

00:03:19:07 - 00:03:37:08

Evan Buczkowski

You know, some new skills I've gained have been riding the bus by myself and learning how to use an ID to get into things for someone who might intern later. I just like them to know that at times they might face challenges, but they can find a way to get through it.

00:03:37:12 - 00:03:54:13

Novalee Garcia

I'm at SAIL at Ingham ISD. I'm an intern as a para. I've been helping students set up lunch, clean up lunch, checking the bathrooms, running errands for Ms.. King. Like sometimes we go to Ingham ISD and pick up packages for her.

00:03:54:13 - 00:04:18:21

Wendi King

I think for SAIL to take on an intern from Project Search kind of completes our continuum. Normally the idea is that students would come in to SAIL and then eventually move on to Project Search. And so to have an intern come back into our program kind of brings it all full circle. It allows our students who are in our classroom to see, you know, one day that could be them potentially, what that kind of program leads to.

00:04:19:03 - 00:04:30:17

Wendi King

So it's really been kind of nice. It also allows for even, I think, a greater relationship because our intern is so much closer to the age of the students. And so they really relate to her well. And so that helps a lot.

00:04:30:20 - 00:04:38:13

Novalee Garcia

I decided I wanted to be a parapro because I have special needs and I wanted to be there to help others. I love helping the students.

00:04:38:15 - 00:05:03:17

Benjamin Darling

Our goal now is to not only create additional and more intriguing and more awesome opportunities for the students, the interns, but also get this on the table. Get this in the minds of our administration and incorporate that into their DEI strategic plan. And when we do that, then we're bringing the whole power of the university behind that that program.

00:05:04:03 - 00:05:08:12

Benjamin Darling

And I think that's an incredible opportunity.