



**Goal:** The goal for each student participant is competitive employment.

### Eligibility

Project SEARCH serves students with disabilities. These are students who are on an Individual Education Program (IEP) and in their last year of high school eligibility. The most important criteria for acceptance into Project SEARCH is a desire to achieve employment.



### Program Overview

Students attend the program for a full school year. The program provides real-life **work experience** combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youths with disabilities make successful transitions from school to productive adult life. Upon satisfactory completion of the program (attendance, good attitude, successful skill acquisition at each job site) students receive a Career Portfolio and Certificate.

- **Once the school year begins:** The first few weeks are focused on understanding expectations, completing employment paperwork, team-building, assessing individual student needs, and familiarization with The Evergreen State College campus. Students begin to develop a portfolio and identify employment skills and preferences.
- **Employment Skills Curriculum:** Throughout the school year, the students work on employability and functional skills for approximately one hour of their day. Classroom activities are designed around these focus areas: Team Building, Getting Around your Workplace, Workplace Safety, Technology, Social Skills, Communication, Presentation Skills, Interviewing, Money Management, Health and Wellness, Job Search Skills and Keeping a Job.
- **Internships/Worksite Rotations:** Through a series of three 10-week internships the students acquire competitive, marketable and transferable skills through hands-on experience. These are unpaid student work experiences are located throughout The Evergreen State College campus. Students spend approximately four hours each day at the internship. The Project SEARCH staff assist with training and job accommodations as necessary.



### Community Connections

Linkages to appropriate services in the community are critical. Services are identified in the community that provides assistance with necessary adaptations required to make a successful transition from school to work.



### Student Selection

Students who meet eligibility criteria are invited to attend an open house and tour the program. Application packets are made available. A selection committee interviews candidates. The committee is made up of all participating partners: Olympia School District Teacher, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Morningside Employment Consultant, The Evergreen State College Host Business Liaison, and an Internship Supervisor.

### Questions?

Contact Lisa Larson at (360) 867-7166 or [alarson@osd.wednet.edu](mailto:alarson@osd.wednet.edu)