

# Project SEARCH HAPPENINGS at Dartmouth-Hitchcock

## Fall 2016



Project SEARCH at Dartmouth-Hitchcock is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year of providing a program for transitioning young adults that combines classroom instruction, career inquiry, and on-the-job training and support. Through three internship rotations at D-H, interns are exposed to real-life work experience and employability skills. Led by Special Education Teacher and Program Coordinator Kathleen MacLean, and assistance from Skills Trainers Rhonda Keenan and Kellen Dunn, this program facilitates young adults with developmental disabilities in their transition to the competitive working world upon program completion. For the interns, it is a journey that brings them closer to success, and to opening the door to new possibilities.



So far, 2016 has been eventful and exciting time for this year's interns. Not only have they entered their first rotations throughout the plethora of internship sites, but they have also gotten the opportunity to explore the community beyond Dartmouth-Hitchcock. Because the Upper Valley provides many learning opportunities, our Project SEARCH class was able to explore the diversity of what the area has to offer. On a bright, warm day in early September, the interns enjoyed a trip to Lebanon that began with lunch on the Green ("stay away, bees!"), and was then followed by a private tour of the AVA Gallery led by Executive Director Bente Torjusen. The class ended their day by going to SPARK! Community Center; this is a place where people of differing abilities come to enjoy a sense of community and enjoy the resources of this center. Interns enjoyed playing pool, ping-pong, and studying the fish tank. Later in September, the class took a day to explore the Hypertherm facility in Lebanon. They enjoyed a tour of the entire facility



and learned about the company's humble origins and hasty progress. The interns got to experiment with actual plasma cutting tools to cut out designs of their choosing. Don't worry, they were in protective

suits and full face gear. They also got to partake in a well-rounded lesson on recycling (a staple of Hypertherm's green initiative). After having a pizza and salad lunch (and yes, dessert too), the interns followed Hypertherm's recycling protocol to minimize waste by separating their trash into compostable and recyclable bins. The beginning of the year is a great chance to let the interns explore the area that they live in, and see the potential of the opportunities that are within their grasp.

Working in a hospital requires skills that are unfamiliar to many people. However, the Project SEARCH class is now savvy in wheelchair safety, fire safety, and hand hygiene thanks to the trainings



they have gone through since the beginning of this year's program. Loriann Agan taught the interns how to transport wheelchairs correctly, a much needed skill as some of the internship sites require this task. The interns got to fight real fires using extinguishers with help from Dave Morrison of Fire ProTec, and learned to P.A.S.S. (pull, aim, squeeze, sweep). Perhaps most importantly, both the class and staff participated in the hand-washing clinic taught by Megan Read and Jessica Swain. We all learned why it is imperative to make sure that our hands stay germ-free.

As of now, the interns are immersed in their first rotations. Kyle Robicheau has a total of 30 mailstops throughout the hospital in his internship at the D-H Mail Center. Brett Clough walks at least 7 miles a day transporting supplies all over the hospital, and acts as if it's no big deal! In Out-Patient Rehab, Brea Fleming has gained valuable skills by interacting with patients day-to-day. These are just a few examples of the enormous responsibility the interns are faced with each day, and we aren't even a full three months into the program yet. So if you happen to see one of the interns out and about in the hospital, feel free to encourage them or say hey!!





**David**  
Central Warehouse

David lives in Hartford, VT. He really likes hiking and camping. During the summer he worked at the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. His future goal is to work for an international company like Hypertherm. His first internship is at the Central Warehouse.



**Kyle**  
Central Mailroom in the A.M.  
Endoscopy in the P.M.

Kyle is from Plainfield, NH. He enjoys listening to music, watching his favorite TV shows and going on the computer. He is also a first degree black belt in karate. His first rotation at D-H is in the Central Mailroom. "I have learned a lot already through this program" said Kyle. His goal when completing the program is to find a good job and to buy his own car.



**Corey**  
Blood Bank and  
Cancer Center in the A.M.  
Gastroenterology in the P.M.

Corey resides in White River Junction. He is working on a variety of experiences at D-H. His first rotation as been in the Blood Bank assisting with inventory, delivering blood products to the Cancer Center and working in the Administrative offices of Gastroenterology.

When he is not at the hospital, Corey enjoys reading and watching TV .



**Brett**  
Inventory Logistics

Brett lives in Quechee, VT. He has played football for the Hartford Hurricanes. He loves everything to do with music, playing guitar and singing. He has performed on stage and his dream job is to be in the music business. His favorite bands are Green Day, Black Veil Brides, Kiss and many more. Brett's excited about his first rotation working in Transportation.



**Brea**  
Outpatient Rehabilitation

Brea lives in Hartland, VT. In her spare time she likes to listen to music, watch movies and TV shows, swim and workout.

Her first rotation has been in Outpatient Rehabilitation. She is busy keeping things clean and stocked. Brea also assist with greeting patients and escorting them to their exam rooms.



**Brenna**  
ENT and Ophthalmology

Brenna resides in Tunbridge, VT. Her hobbies and interests are reading books, baking cakes and cookies and photography. Most recently she won 1st and 2nd place at the Tunbridge Fair for her baking. Her future goal is to work with babies or horses. "I would really like to work at CHAD." Brenna is happy to be working in Ophthalmology and ENT for her first rotation.