

What is Avera St. Luke's Project SEARCH, Aberdeen?

It is a unique one-year business-led transition program for individuals with disabilities age 18-21 in high school who:

- Desire to work (be gainfully employed making minimum wage and working 16 or more hours per week)
- Are in the last year of eligibility in special education (by age or by choice)
- Have completed their high school academic requirements and have deferred receiving their diploma
- Have basic communication skills
- Have good social, grooming, and hygiene skills
- Can pass drug screening and background checks
- Have updated immunizations
- Demonstrate their willingness to follow classroom, school, and hospital policies (CHS and Avera St. Luke's) by signing the Avera Project SEARCH Intern Contract
- Have applied to, been interviewed, been placed via the IEP process, and been accepted into the program

Aberdeen's program takes place at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen:

- In the classroom--experience job exploration, development, and seeking skills; and learn those employability and independent living skills necessary to gaining and keeping a job
- At worksites—gain job experience, etiquette, and learn transferable job skills while participating in on-the-job training with supports (job coaching, mentoring, and needed accommodations) through up to three worksite rotations or internships
- Internship sites are chosen with the interns' interests/skills in mind and are supervised by their teacher, supervisors/mentors, and skills trainer.

- The worksite experiences, amount of time at each rotation, and instruction provided are tailored to the individual.
- Possible Avera worksite experiences include: Materials Management, Sterile Processing, Grounds Keeping, Housekeeping, Food Services, AMG Medical Billing, Human Resources, etc.
- Some work experiences may be off-site.
- Aberdeen's program follows a slightly modified CHS calendar.
- The program's goal is to prepare the Avera Project SEARCH participants for competitive, gainful employment.

Aberdeen's Project Search Partners:

- Avera St. Luke's Hospital
- Aberdeen School District
- Aspire Inc.
- SD Department of Labor
- SD Division of Rehabilitation Services and Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact:

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