

Good morning! Thank you for the opportunity to present the National Governors Association's (NGA) initiative of A Better Bottom Line: Employing People with Disabilities at your June SHRMC meeting. As promised, here is a brief summary of the presentation with the links to the full videos.

One of the strategies for accomplishing this initiative in Missouri is creating early work experiences for high school students with disabilities within state agencies through Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH is an evidence based practice which partners local school districts with work places. Early work experiences and established work histories have demonstrated the ability to launch youth with disabilities into greater long term employment success.

Project SEARCH details:

- Technical assistance is provided at no cost in developing an internship site.
- Host sites are only needed for a 12 week rotation.
- The internships are volunteer (unpaid) experiences associated with high school curriculum.
- On-site support is provided to facilitate the acquisition and refinement of the interns work skills.

NGA Initiative: <http://ci.nga.org/cms/home/1213/index>

Project SEARCH in Missouri – Stories of Success:

- St. Charles: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Od-Lmw\\_odYg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Od-Lmw_odYg)
- St. Charles: [http://www.stltoday.com/suburban-journals/stcharles/education/spotlight-on-project-search-at-barnes-jewish-st-peters-hospital/article\\_69ac03b6-956f-54fe-91c3-07c4cc715ea7.html](http://www.stltoday.com/suburban-journals/stcharles/education/spotlight-on-project-search-at-barnes-jewish-st-peters-hospital/article_69ac03b6-956f-54fe-91c3-07c4cc715ea7.html)
- Kansas City: <http://fox4kc.com/2014/04/16/goodwill-helping-young-disabled-people-find-jobs-in-the-metro/>
- Independence: <http://www.isdschools.org/2014/05/19/six-isd-students-graduate-from-project-search/>

Again, thank you for allowing us to share a few minutes with you at your SHRMC meeting. Please contact either me or Barb Gilpin ([barb.gilpin@dese.mo.gov](mailto:barb.gilpin@dese.mo.gov) or 573.751.7661) to further discuss your interest or to simply explore the possibility in making a difference in the life of a young adult.

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