

Many Members of the First Graduating Class of Project Search Interns Land County Positions —

After successfully completing a one-year internship with the County last fall, eight of the 11 graduates of the Project Search internship program landed jobs in County government departments, and one graduate is currently volunteering.

Project Search, a program that has gained national attention, places young adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities in unpaid internships in a variety of workplace settings. The program is unique because it totally immerses interns in the workplace and focus on the needs of both the interns and the workplace, with the goal being competitive employment. More than 50 percent of last year's graduating class was hired by Montgomery County. One intern is currently volunteering with the Department of Recreation with hopes of a part-time job in the future.

Following is an update on the status of the nine interns:

Sasha Butler was hired part-time in the County Attorney's Debt Collection Unit as an office clerk. Sasha helps prepare court documents to be filed for court, scans court documents, and does data entry.

Andy Eisenhaur was hired part-time with Montgomery Parks as a parts runner/office clerk in the Fleet Division.



Kristen Higgins was hired part-time as a contractor in the Department of Transportation, Director's Office, as an administrative assistant. She works on special projects for the department along with other clerical duties.

Caroline Lubas was hired as a part-time contractor with the Police Department in the Data Systems Unit. Caroline assists with data entry and scanning of accident/incident reports and occasionally issues bicycle decals for those registering their bikes with Montgomery County.

Amy Lyddane was hired in the Finance Dept, Treasury Division, as a full-time principal administrative aide.

Jimmy Pham was hired full-time as an office clerk in the Department of Permitting Services, Land Development Division. Jimmy assists with County well and septic records management.



Javier Requejo continues to volunteer at the Wheaton and Lawton recreation centers where he assists with setting up for classes and doing some light cleaning. Javi has developed great relationships through his volunteer work and is much appreciated by staff. *(Javi is an avid swimmer and was recently selected to represent Maryland in the National Special Olympics this summer in New Jersey.)*

James Travers was hired part-time as an office clerk in the Department of Housing and Community Affairs. James assists three different divisions with imaging, archiving, filing and other clerical duties.



Milena Vanous was hired part-time by the Department of Recreation and works at the Shriver Aquatics Center as a pool aid and helps with daily lifeguard cleaning tasks.

“All of our Project Search interns and employees are hard working and appreciate the chance they have been given to become self-supporting, independent adults,” said Human Resources Director Joe Adler. “It means a lot to them to work along side County employees, making a valuable contribution to their department.”

This year’s class of Project Search interns started working in September 2013 and will graduate in June. For questions about the program, call Karen Hochberg, Targeted Recruitment Specialist in the Office of Human Resources, 240-777-5091.