



## **Benefits for School Districts**

- Focuses on preparation for employment that meets IDEA 2004 and other disability related laws
- Meets Indicator 8 for Parent Education if the program uses the Family Involvement Curriculum
- Meets Indicators 13 and 14 in IDEA 2004 to meet transition outcomes and compliance
- Offers intense level of supervision from education, rehabilitation and business
- Provides career exploration for those students with little work experience
- Promotes the skills acquisition of transferable and marketable skills leading to competitive employment
- Leads to partnerships with agencies and business, which equals shared cost and improved results

## **Benefits for Students and Families**

- Provides post-secondary training and internship experience at no cost to students or families
- Creates opportunities to work in a high-status organization within the community
- Concentrates on developing intern strength areas
- Works towards independence in areas such as transportation, self-advocacy, health and wellness, financial literacy, etc.
- Provides linkages to vocational rehabilitation, developmental disability and other post-secondary support agencies
- Provides opportunities to explore a variety of employment options through three internships
- Provides opportunities to build job specific and employability skills
- Delivers transition services in an inclusive setting

## **Benefits for Community**

- Creates a business culture of the workplace that includes people with disabilities
- Increases collaboration among service agencies, education and business partners
- Provides for braided funding which is a more efficient use of tax dollars and resources
- Creates opportunities for people with disabilities to be employed and paying taxes instead of relying on social security disability resources
- Brings agencies and schools together to engage in system change activities to better meet the needs of people with disabilities and utilize resources
- Brings federal, state and local recognition for participating in a national award-winning program. Many local and state government agencies are hosting Project SEARCH programs as well as the Federal Department of the Interior, the Smithsonian Institute and the National Institutes of Health.

## **Benefits for Business**

- Provides an opportunity for businesses to influence education and agency policies to create a stronger business/education partnership.
- Taps into a resource of employees to fill and retain entry-level positions.
- Meets the desires of their customers. Gallup polls suggest that people choose a business based upon knowing employees with disabilities are part of their workforce.
- Provides role models for other employees.
- Mirrors their workforce to their customer base. Many customers of a business are also people with disabilities or their families. Providing employment/training opportunities to their customers can increase their customer base.
- Reaches out to people with disabilities who are a large market group.
- Creates a workforce that mirrors the general population. Over ten percent of the public are people with disabilities. Our workforce should mirror those numbers.