Orange County Public Schools

Project SEARCH-Putting it all Together -A Model that Works

Orange County Presentation with assistance from Project 10, DD Council, VR, Quest, and Host Sites

FLBOE Meeting
June 21, 2016

National Model

- Founded in Cincinnati by an educator and nurse who recognized a need
- Why it works?
  - Shared vision for students reaching their potential
  - Good for the student and the business
  - Efficient and effective use of resources

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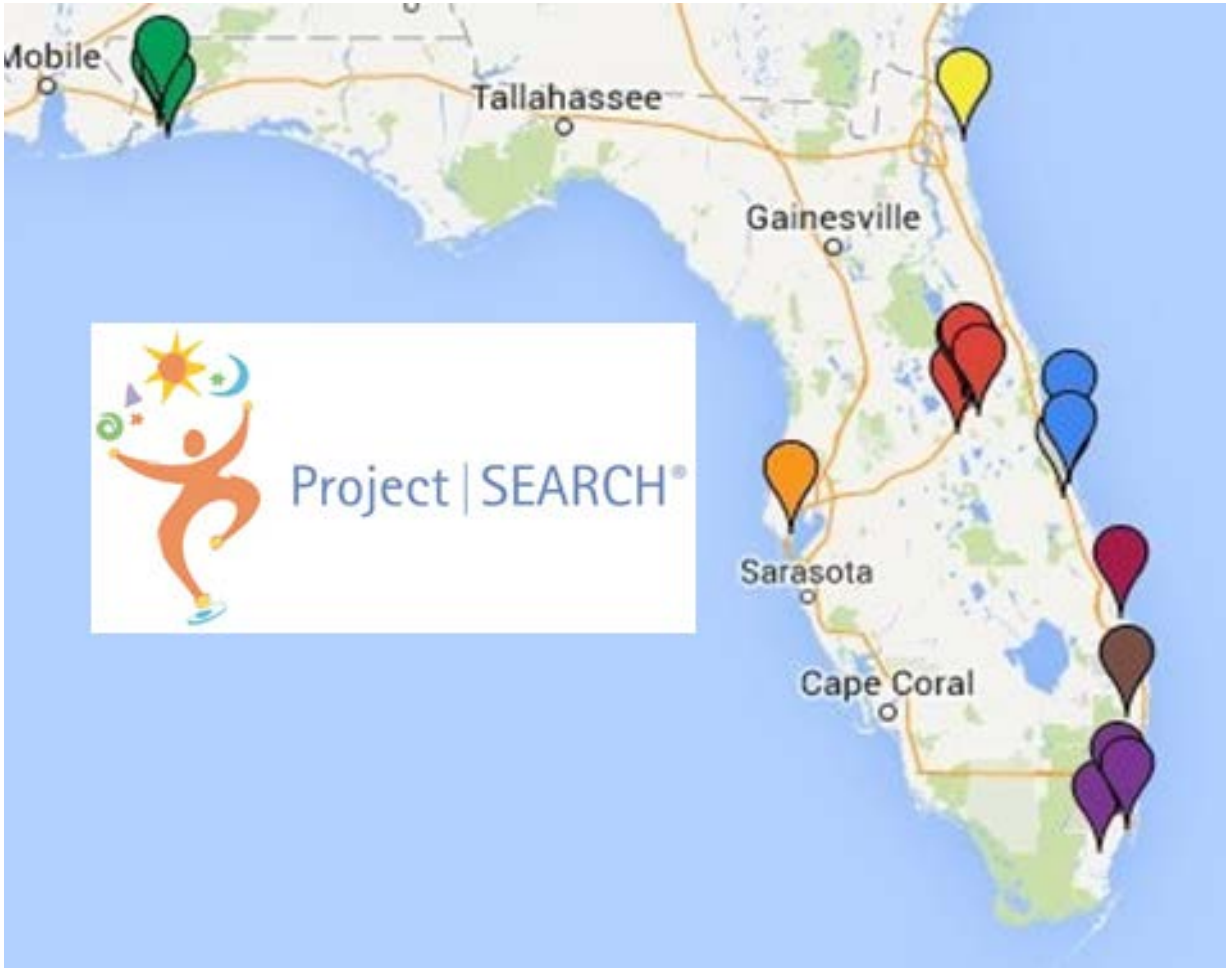
Project SEARCH

- 400 Programs in 46 states & 6 countries
- Array of Industries
- 75% Employment Outcomes (Nationally-2015)
  - 33% employment at host sites
  - 67% employment in community
- 74% Employment Outcomes (Florida-2015) 2015 National Conference Recognition
  - 16 Florida sites with 60% or greater employment outcomes
    - 6 with 100% employment outcomes



Current Project SEARCH - Florida

OCPS Employment Outcomes

- SY 2013-14
  - Recognitions at the 2015 Project SEARCH Convention in Arizona
    - Rosen Shingle Creek Resort- 100%
    - Winter Park Memorial Hospital- 100%
    - Florida Hospital Orlando- 100%
    - Florida Hospital East – 64%
- SY 2014-15
  - 84% hire rate (Average for FL was 74%)

Orange County Project SEARCH

- Currently 3 sites serving average of 30 students annually
- Alignment to labor market in Central Florida
- Highest level of OCPS Transition Continuum
- Data driven decision making
- Strong collaborative vision among partners

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Key Concepts

- Business Led Collaboration with:
  -School Partner
  -Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
  -Supported Employment Organization
  -Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Braided funding
- Immersion and Impact
- Train in real work settings
- Low risk, low cost for host business

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Best Practices

- Collaborative vetting process for ‘readiness’
- Site mentoring and strategic natural supports
- Data driven decision making which includes performance assessments
- Solid working relationships

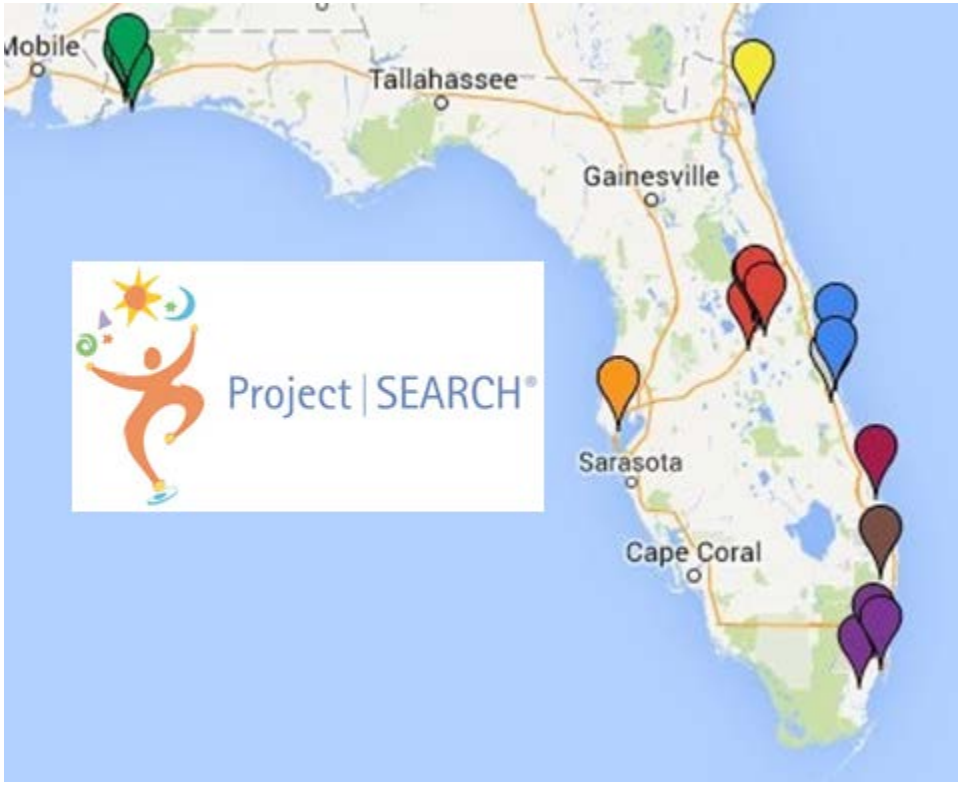
Looking to the Future…

- Performance based qualifiers
- Examine implications of saturation
- Frontload work incentive training for students and parents
- Virtual tours
- Strategic instruction centering on Universal Design
- Including parents and former interns on steering committee

What the host sites tell us…

- Well-trained student interns make some of the best employees
- Builds a shared sense of mission and vision (especially true of the service sector)
- Altruistic sense of purpose (i.e. giving back to the community)
- Recognition of government agencies working well together

So why do we need more sites…



SDPBC ESE Dept. – ACCESS Programs

(Assimilation to Community, Careers, Employment & Self-Sufficiency)

A dynamic initiative established in 2009 with community and business partnerships to provide quality instruction in:

- Career Development & Employment Soft Skills,
- Independent Living Skills, and
- Community Involvement

Over 80% of ACCESS students finish FAPE employed and ready to be active, productive citizens!!

Located in Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Lake Worth, West Palm Beach and on the FAU Boca Raton campus as the Transitioning Owls

Meet Shawn W.

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