



# Youth Services

[youthservices.scvrd.net](http://youthservices.scvrd.net)

## VR helps young adults

with disabilities build self-esteem; develop teamwork, communication, and leadership skills; and prepare for employment success and life as adults. This includes individuals who may be:

- Out of school
- Low income
- English language learners
- Juvenile offenders
- Homeless
- Current or former foster care recipients
- Pregnant or parenting

### For students

VR also provides pre-employment training for students with disabilities, including:

- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning experiences
- Counseling on post-secondary education
- Workplace readiness training
- Instruction in self-advocacy

These services may be provided in an individual or group setting, and do not require the student to be a VR client.

*Contact your VR counselor, teacher, guidance counselor or school nurse to get started.*

## Train your future employees

**Work-based learning experiences**, paid for by VR, give businesses the opportunity to evaluate potential candidates, reduce training costs, and shape their future workforce. Students build confidence and learn essential skills in a job setting, and all involved determine if the job is an appropriate vocational choice.



A **job coach** may assist the individual to learn and better perform their work duties.

**Rehabilitation technology** is available to assist individuals in maximizing job performance. Rehabilitation engineers can provide assessments and offer low cost solutions to help people with employment activities and independent living.

## Individualized services

are provided throughout the year at VR offices around the state and may include:

- Assessment for eligibility, career exploration and planning for employment;
- Disability management through therapies, treatments, procedures or assistive devices;
- Training to enhance skills through instruction and work experiences in our offices, on worksites, or through educational partnerships;
- Job search to help you find competitive employment and support you once you are on the job.

**Summer activities** and **field trips** provide additional opportunities to explore career and post-secondary interests and skill development.



## Programs & Partnerships

### Project SEARCH \*

is a school-to-work program that places high school students with disabilities into a work environment. They learn transferable job skills and many are hired by the business they intern with.

### High School / High Tech (HS/HT) \*

helps students explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

### Disability Mentoring Day (DMD)

promotes career development for students and job-seekers with disabilities through hands-on career exploration and mentoring relationships at local businesses.

\* Not available at all VR locations.

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## Project SEARCH leads to success

Rodheem Perry's first day as a Project SEARCH intern at Palmetto Parkridge hospital was not what he expected.

"Come on," his mentor, Carl Miller calls, "you're going to help me move a patient."

Calmly, Rodheem follows Miller's instructions: he dresses in surgical scrubs, enters an operating room, and they take the patient to recovery.

"We call him 'Rodheem the dream,'" says his job coach. "Working here has made him realize how much he can do with his life."

The effect of Project SEARCH on the interns is dramatic. In high school, Judith Gillings didn't know what she wanted to do. "I didn't know what I was capable of," she explains.

Her first internship is in the Intensive Care Unit, where her duties include delivering meals to patient rooms. It is difficult for her because she is shy.

Her job coach gives her tips on posture, what to say, and making eye contact.

Judith nervously walks into a room. "Hi. My name is Judith..."

Today, instead of walking through the hospital and looking at her feet, Judith smiles with confidence as she waves to everybody. And one of the things she enjoys the most is interacting with patients.

Judith, Rodheem, and more than seven other interns have been hired by Palmetto Parkridge.

