



ALBERTINA  
**KERR**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ALBERTINA KERR AND KAISER SUNNYSIDE ANNOUNCE GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR PROJECT SEARCH PARTICIPANTS**

PORTLAND, Ore. (June 27, 2017) – Albertina Kerr and Embassy Suites by Hilton at the Portland Airport will be hosting a graduation ceremony for their Project SEARCH participants on June 30, 2017 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center – Sunnybrook Bldg.- 10180 SE Sunnyside Rd., Clackamas, OR 97015. This year’s graduating class of four adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities participated in the nine-month internship and employment training program receiving classroom instruction, career exploration and learned technical and soft skills including communication, accountability and customer service.

Albertina Kerr’s Project SEARCH employment program helps young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities gain professional skills, find jobs and transition to careers in integrated work places. Albertina Kerr’s nationally recognized program holds an employment outcome rate of 86 percent by placing its interns into integrated workplaces. Albertina Kerr’s Project SEARCH is the first successful program of its type in the state of Oregon. Sunnyside’s graduating class worked in EVS, Material, Sterile Processing, ICU, Pediatrics and Nursing Administration while participating in the program.

“Project SEARCH not only exposes interns to an integrated work place, but it increases independence, confidence and self-esteem in each of them,” said Kayla Hall, Program Manager. “Albertina Kerr is breaking down negative stereotypes of people who have an intellectual or developmental disability by offering them the opportunity to develop their careers.”

This will be Albertina Kerr’s third Project SEARCH graduating class. Their first program was introduced in 2015 in partnership with Kaiser Permanente Westside Medical Center, which hosted three classes which graduated earlier this month. This is Kaiser Permanente Sunnyside Medical Center first graduating class.

For more information about Project SEARCH, contact Jennifer Harmon at 503.408.4721 or Jennifer.Harmon@AlbertinaKerr.org.

### **About Albertina Kerr**

Since 1907, Albertina Kerr has strengthened Oregon families and communities. Today, we provide programs and services to children and adults with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges, empowering them to live richer lives. For more information about Albertina Kerr, call 503.239.8101 or visit [www.AlbertinaKerr.org](http://www.AlbertinaKerr.org)

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