



Project | SEARCH®

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## **ALBERTINA KERR AND EMBASSY SUITES ANNOUNCE GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR PROJECT SEARCH INTERNS**

PORTLAND, Ore. (August 9, 2017) – Albertina Kerr and Embassy Suites by Hilton at the Portland Airport will be hosting a graduation ceremony for their Project SEARCH participants on August 11, 2017 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Embassy Suites – Portland Airport, 7900 NE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Portland Oregon. This year’s graduating class of four adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities participated in the 9-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 100 percent by placing its interns into integrated workplaces from the Embassy Suites program. Albertina Kerr’s Project SEARCH is the first successful program of its type in the state of Oregon. Embassy Suite’s second graduating class worked in housekeeping, prep cooking, banquet service, switchboard operation, administrative assistance and building engineering while participating in the program.

“Our interns and their success are proof that people rise to the challenges set out for them and achieve great things with the right support. I’m so proud of the ways each individual has grown and shown themselves what they are capable of,” said Mer Stevens, Program Manager. Community partners which are integral in executing this program include Multnomah County, the Oregon Department of Human Services and Embassy Suites by Hilton Portland Airport.

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, Albertina Kerr empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health challenges and other social barriers to lead self-determined lives and reach their full potential. For more information about Albertina Kerr, call 503.239.8101 or visit [www.AlbertinaKerr.org](http://www.AlbertinaKerr.org)

**About Project SEARCH:** Project SEARCH was developed at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, which is still the administrative headquarters for the organization. Project SEARCH is a business-led, one-year work-preparation program for young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Most participants are enrolled while transitioning from high school to work. The hallmark of Project SEARCH is total workplace immersion, which facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training. Project SEARCH’s primary objective is to secure competitive employment for every program participant. For more information, visit [www.projectsearch.us](http://www.projectsearch.us).

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