



10/12/16

Please accept this proposal from Entrust Community Services to provide information and education regarding the benefits of hiring people with intellectual disabilities through the creation of a Project Search site at CWU.

Proposal amount: \$5,000

Contact Information: Tom Gaulke CEO

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### **Background**

Entrust Community Services is a regional nonprofit agency serving people with intellectual and physical disabilities throughout Central Washington State. We have served our community for over 45 years. Entrust is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and in 2013, received recognition from CARF for our work with Memorial Hospital for Project Search which opened the doors for the hospital to work with and hire people with intellectual disabilities into their workforce.

Each year our highly trained and motivated staff work with employers, large and small, to educate them regarding the benefits of hiring people with disabilities. In fact, we place nearly 50 people with disabilities into jobs in our community each year. In 2007, Entrust expanded its service area to include Kittitas County and we have had a constant presence there ever since.

Entrust is committed to delivering services for people with disabilities in typical community settings in accordance with County Guidelines and the Working Age Adult Policy. In 2016, we closed all facility based services in Yakima County and now provide all services in community places.

Our administrative staff are committed to ensuring the highest standards are applied to the management of all funds related to grants and service contracts. We are proud to have achieved 45 years of clean independent audits and have never had a contract with a local, state or federal agency terminated for any reason related to poor performance or misuse of funds.

The Entrust Management Team has over 75 years' experience working in the field of vocational rehabilitation and in management grants and government funded programs.

### **Project Information:**



Entrust Community Services would like to build on its experience with Project Search in Yakima by working with Central Washington University to become a Project Search site in Ellensburg.

Project SEARCH was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, a research environment that fosters visionary thinking and innovation. It all began in 1996, when Erin Riehle was Director of Cincinnati Children's Emergency Department. Erin felt that, because the hospital served individuals with developmental disabilities, it made sense that they should commit to hiring people in this group. She wondered if it would be possible to train people with developmental disabilities to fill some of the high-turnover, entry level positions in her department, which involved complex and systematic tasks such as stocking supply cabinets. As a starting point, Erin presented her ideas to Susie Rutkowski, then the special education director at Great Oaks Career Campuses. Erin and Susie formed a partnership that was instantaneous, and together they launched Project SEARCH.

Since its inception, Project SEARCH has grown from a single program site at Cincinnati Children's to over 300 sites across the United States and Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Australia. **Project SEARCH's primary objective is to secure competitive employment for people with disabilities.**

In 2006 Entrust applied to become licensed to develop a Project Search Site at Memorial Hospital in Yakima. Our first students started the program in 2007. Since then we have expanded the program to include a Retail Project that now is embedded with 3 major Retailers.

Entrust would like to apply the Project Search model to Central Washington University using Xavier University as our model. Xavier was the first University to host the **Project SEARCH** program which started in the fall of 2005. The university program was modeled after the first Project SEARCH program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Project Search interns rotate through three work site internships which allow them to build technical skills and focus on communication and problem solving. The goal is for the interns to learn these job duties based on their individual abilities so they can become independent in a competitive work environment. Throughout the interns' rotations, they receive on-the-job coaching if necessary, support with accommodations and interaction with various employees and students at the university.

Project Search is a win-win situation for everyone. The goal is competitive employment and can occur anytime throughout the school year, either on campus or anywhere in their community. Entrust has completed all training requirements of the Project Search Program and has the experience to allow us to expand into Central Washington University and beyond.

The program has proven to be sustainable. Yakima has operated the program continuously since inception. Revenue to support the program once up and running, comes from fees paid by districts to send students into the program, funding through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Entrust also receives support from donors and United Way for operational costs.

Central Washington University is a great place to start in terms of educating the community as a whole about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities. Not only is CWU the largest employer in the area, they also have connections within the business community through their school of business. Getting them involved in Project Search will undoubtedly lead to greater outreach to employers regarding hiring people with disabilities.

### Project Goals:

Goal#1: To have an operational Project Search program in place serving 5 students from local school districts at CWU by fall of 2017.

Goal # 2: 80% of Project Search students will have competitive jobs in the community within 1 year of start in Project Search.

Goal #3: Expand the number of student slots in the program from 5 to 8 by fall of 2018.

### Project Milestones:

1. Identify a “Champion” within the host organization- i.e., CWU by March of 2017
2. Set up an educational meeting for key players at CWU site to learn about Project Search- CWU, school districts, County, Entrust Staff, etc.in April of 2017
3. Sign memorandum of understanding with CWU becoming an official Project Search Site by June of 2017
4. Send CWU project liaison to training at Project Search in Cincinnati by July 2017
5. Develop 5 internship opportunities within CWU operations by August 2017
6. Develop Steering Committee and application process
7. Begin Program in fall
8. Students placed into jobs within 1 year.
9. Develop Success Stories and educational opportunities for employers regarding the benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

Entrust requests the sum of \$5,000 to help with offsetting the start-up costs of the project. Those costs are:

- \$500 for costs associated with facilitating the Educational Meeting for potential stakeholders (location, staff set up time, food and beverages, printed material, etc).
- \$3500 travel, lodging, meals and registration costs for CWU staff to attend Project Search Training in Cincinnati.
- \$500 for related costs to train site supervisors at CWU – printed materials, food, beverages, location costs, etc.
- \$500 for Project Search Polo Shirts for students and instructors, name badges, and other branding materials to establish Project Search Brand at CWU.

While there are multiple service providers working to secure employment for people with disabilities in the County, Project Search does not restrict those providers from sending students they have into the program. Entrust will support successful applicants to participate in collaboration with all vendors in the area. We see no duplication of services.

Respectfully submitted:

*Tom Gaulke*

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