VR helps youth with barriers to education or employment

build self-esteem, learn teamwork, gain communication and leadership skills, prepare for employment success, and achieve independence.

Pre-Employment Transition Services

are for students, ages 13-21, with a 504 or Individual Education Plan (IEP), and include the following individual or group activities:

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

Group Transition Services

are for youth with disabilities, ages 14-24, in or out of school, and may include:

• Tours of colleges and technical schools
• Employer or business site visits
• Career fairs coordinated with employers

Individualized Transition Services

are for youth eligible for VR services who have an Individualized Plan for Employment, and may include:

• Counseling and guidance
• Post-secondary, continuing and adult education
• Vocational and work-based training
• Supported employment

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Train your future employees

Work-based learning experiences, unpaid or 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 everyone involved determines if the job is an appropriate vocational choice.

A job coach may assist the individual to learn and better perform their job 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.
Programs & Partnerships

Summer Activities *

include Summer Institutes hosted by local VR offices across the state, and Summer Camps hosted by VR’s Comprehensive Evaluation Centers, that feature fun-filled career and post-secondary education exploration at no cost.

Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) *

allows youth from around the state to interact with employers, learn about disability employment resources and discover career opportunities.

Project SEARCH *

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

* May not be available at all VR locations.

Project SEARCH 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.