Goodwill

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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INTERNS WITH DISABILITIES GRADUATE FROM PROJECT SEARCH, DWD ASSISTANT DEPUTY SECRETARY DANIELLE WILLIAMS TO SPEAK AT CEREMONY
The Milwaukee County Zoo is the site where 10 young people learned employment and life skills

What: The transition from school-to-work is tough for any young adult, but people with developmental disabilities face particular challenges. The Project SEARCH program allows participants ages 18-24 to work on problem-solving, decision-making, social skills in the workplace and so much more. Interns go through three 10-week rotations in different areas of the Zoo and Zoological Society, such as food service, animal buildings, education and administration. Individuals work 20-25 hours per week and attend a classroom component before and after work each day.

Project SEARCH was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in 1996, and many of the existing sites are hospitals. The Milwaukee County Zoo is only the second zoo in the nation to participate. This program succeeds through a collaborative effort among several partners, including educational organizations, local school districts, vocational rehabilitation services, long-term support organizations and a supported employment provider.

At Project SEARCH young adults with disabilities can learn practical skills as well as social experiences that will enable individuals to thrive in the career of their choice. Goodwill's supported employment staff will help the interns with job placement and will provide job coaches for up to six months when they start new jobs. In Wisconsin, Project SEARCH has placed 88 percent of participants in successful employment.

When: Completion Ceremony
          Tuesday, June 4, 2019
          10 a.m. to Noon/Program begins at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Milwaukee County Zoo
          Peck Welcome Center
          10001 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee
          Complimentary Parking – let them know at the entrance you are here for the Project SEARCH ceremony