



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2018

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**INTERNS WITH DISABILITIES GRADUATE FROM PROJECT SEARCH,
COUNTY EXECUTIVE, DWD DEPUTY SECRETARY HAGERUP
TO SPEAK AT CEREMONY**

*The Milwaukee County Zoo is the site where
12 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; by the end of 2018 the zoo will be one of 27 sites in the state of Wisconsin. 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.

This is the third year that the zoo has been an internship site. Through Project SEARCH sites like this one, young adults with disabilities can learn practical skills as well as social experiences that will enable them to thrive in the career of their choice. Some interns have already been hired for jobs in the community and others will work with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Goodwill Supported Employment to secure a job. Over the past two years, 80% of our Project SEARCH graduates are working!

When: Completion Ceremony
Tuesday, June 5, 2018
10 a.m. to Noon/Program begins at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Milwaukee County Zoo
Peck Welcome Center
10001 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee