

Project Search Prepares for New Classes



Vodec consumers who want a community job, get ready. Your favorite services provider has **two** opportunities for real world training internships you can take part in through Project Search.

If you have never heard the name, Project Search is a national program that provides rotational internships at businesses to help high student students with disabilities transition successfully to competitive employment.

The information and application process for both locations begins in February.

Vodec has adapted the program to a wider demographic, and with the help of several community partners, installed it at both Nebraska Medicine's main Omaha campus and the Downtown Omaha Embassy Suites, by Hilton. The two locations offer opportunities in separate types of industries that require skills that can be used in hundreds of job opportunities in other Internships are unpaid, and last almost a full year.

Each annual cycle is divided into rotations. A rotation lasts several months, and gives its participants the chance to learn how to do a job, get good at it, and become comfortable enough to compete against more traditional mainstream job applicants.



The program has a great track record. Last year, all six of Vodec's interns successfully completed the program and received their graduation certificates.

Today, all six of those consumers are employed in the mainstream job force and doing well.

The process that generates such amazing results is a combination of "hands-on" coaching and enough independent repetitions of the tasks in each rotation to give a consumer confidence in their ability to do the work.



Project Search interns start and end each day with classroom work to learn and reinforce basic skills that will apply to any job; resume writing, using the internet, workplace courtesy and expectations, and dressing for the community work force.

Between classes, interns report to their rotation site and work a shift, supervised by a job coach.

That coach stays right by their side until they have mastered the daily tasks of each job. That close-quarter supervision gives Vodec's community employment teams the expertise they need as they pursue and develop job opportunities for each consumer.

The Nebraska Medicine interns can expect rotations in janitorial services, bio-environmental cleanup, cafeteria and food service, among others.

At Embassy Suites, rotations in banquet services, janitorial, maintenance, the laundry and housekeeping are available.

If you think a Project Search Internship would be a smart step in the road to community employment for you or a loved one, your first step is to visit one or both of the two open houses scheduled for this month.

Based on your career goals, each open house will give you a chance to get the details on how Project Search works, and the specific rotations each location offers.

Next, is application and skills assessment. Each intern will have the opportunity to show their existing skills, display their positive attitude and meet other applicants.

If you have questions about the programs, or how you can get involved, please call Beth at (402) 455.4648

Your path to competitive employment starts here:

PROJECT SEARCH OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION:

Tuesday, February 21, 2017
5pm - 7pm



EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON
555 South Tenth Street
Omaha, NE 68102

Tuesday, February 21, 2017
5pm - 7pm



NEBRASKA MEDICINE
(STORZ PAVILION, LOWER LEVEL)
4350 Dewey Avenue
Omaha, NE 68105

Perseverance Pays It Forward



Team Perseverance poses with the decorated baby blankets they donated to Children's Hospital

Team Perseverance is at it again! This time decorating and donating baby blankets to a local birthing center.

The group of Vodec Nebraska Residential Consumers is a self-organized effort for residents who wanted to take a personal stake in getting more involved in the community.

From the beginning, Perseverance has made it clear they want to demonstrate that having a disability doesn't mean disconnecting from the people and activities around them.

Their efforts focus on recreation, improving life skills, and most importantly — giving back.

Which brings us back to baby blankets.

Faced with the question of “who” Perseverance wanted to help, they chose another vulnerable group — newborns. Each resident chose a theme and decorated their blanket to reflect a different attitude and personality.

Those chose Children's Hospital as the recipient for their gift.

The facility is one of the largest of its kind in the region — an area that covers five states. Every year, the hospital and medical center treat 250,000 children for various medical conditions and illnesses. Spending time in the hospital is something some of these consumers have experienced first hand. They know the difference something familiar, something comfortable, something pretty can make for an extended stay.

Vodec is proud of the engagement these consumers have taken on with the community. It would be easy enough for people facing their own individual challenges to sit back and wait for their neighbors and organizations to bring assistance to them. They have chosen instead to Persevere! Good job, team. ▼



Vodec Entrance Criteria

- ▶ 16-years of age for any vocational program
- ▶ Behavioral, medical, and transportation needs inside Vodec's scope of service and capability to provide
- ▶ Adequate funding in place for requested services (including private pay or other options)
- ▶ For in-home services, applicant's home must meet basic health and safety requirements



Vodec is Certified by:

- ✦ Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- ✦ Iowa Department of Human Services
- ✦ Iowa Medicaid Enterprise
- ✦ Nebraska Department of Education

Vodec is affiliated with the following organizations:

- ✦ Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce
- ✦ Human Services Advisory Council
- ✦ Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP)
- ✦ Iowa Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
- ✦ Nebraska Association of Service Providers (NASP)
- ✦ Nonprofit Association of the Midlands (NAM)
- ✦ Omaha Chamber of Commerce
- ✦ Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce



Thank you for your continued support!

To our valued supporters and contributors...

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Notes From The CEOs Desk

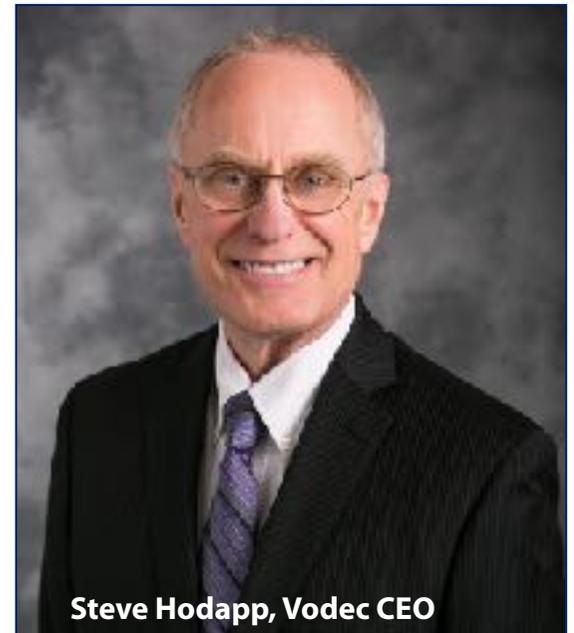
This month I have completed and released Vodec's annual report. As both a calendar and fiscal year, 2016 was filled with major milestones and impressive performances by members of our team from every level of service, every location, and every program. I couldn't be more proud of Vodec as a company, a service provider, or exceptional member of the community.

If you'd like to review the report, you can read or download a copy at our website: <http://www.vodec.org>

I hope you'll take the time to find it, and read up on even more about the impact Vodec is having on the disability community, and the greater communities we serve. We have built and continue to build relationships with the State organizations, schools, businesses and families that make up our community. I believe you'll come away both impressed, and as proud as we are of the company Vodec has become.

We're excited about the opportunities 2017 will bring, and we are looking forward to the challenge of fully realizing as many of them as possible.

In 2018, Vodec will celebrate our 50th anniversary as a service provider for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. It's been an exciting and rewarding road. We're glad to have you along for the journey.



Steve Hodapp, Vodec CEO

Here's Your Sign!



The Vodec Central Iowa work center finally says "Vodec" on the outside, like our amazing team members do on the inside!

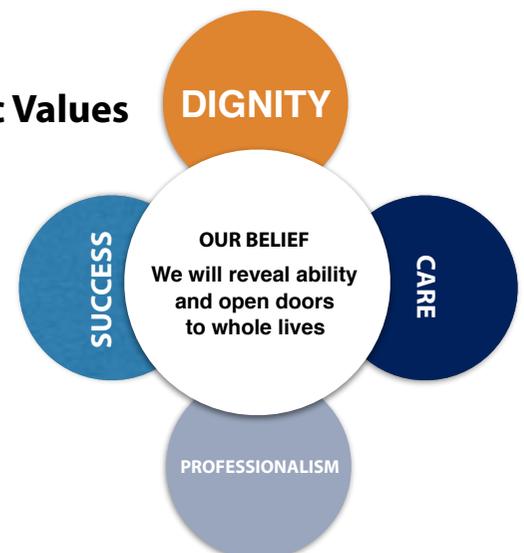
Adel, Iowa's Fairground Road is where you'll find us. Special Thank You to Iowa RSM Heidi Hall for taking and sending in the photo. Next steps for Adel will be setting up Vocational Training work facilities to serve Dallas and the surrounding counties. To the crew from Signature Sign and Graphic, in Grimes — GREAT JOB! Thank you.

Upcoming Events

February:

- 9 - Valentine's Dance
- 14 - NE Elm/Cares Outing (Henry Doorly Zoo)
- 21 - Project Search Open House, (Embassy Suites)
- 23 - Project Search Open House, (Nebraska Medicine)
- 28 - NE Elm/Cares Outing (Comic Book Store)

Vodec Values





612 South Main Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

Vodec is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) Corporation. Vodec is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants for services or employment are considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin or disability.

Recent Improvements

Center Column: Our Council Bluffs work center has a new accessible rest room. This upgrade was essential for our consumers who use wheelchairs or require more space to ensure their accommodation.



Right Column: Our 4th Street Residential facility's remodel is complete. Over the past 18 months, we moved the laundry facility from the basement to the main living level in the house, which is home to eight residents.

The kitchens have been updated with new tile, countertops and appliances. Much of this work was possible thanks to the generosity of the Iowa West Foundation. We are grateful for their presence in the community.



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The Voice online at www.vodec.org

