

KENNEDY KRIEGER INSTITUTE

Careers & Choices

Vanessa William





Content Synopsis

OVERVIEW OF KEY IDEAS

Personal Stories/Philosophies

Projects & Services

Workforce Support System

Encouraging Growth

Future Guidance



Meaningful Community Services at Kennedy Krieger

Program Focus: Project SEARCH Intern

Project SEARCH is a transition program for individuals 18-24 years old to get support and job training that will help them intergrate into to the work force. Indiiviiduals are provided with non-paid internship giving them the opportunity to learn skills while gaining expereince in a workplace setting.

Internship Overview

- Gain various traninings & certificates
- Apricot Software
- Virtual Support Sessions
- Curriculum Project - Employee Interviews
- Creating DPDs
- Team Meetings



Services Implemented



Leading Small Groups

Monitored and guided completion of individual work.

Supporting Individuals in Team Meetings

Provided support and guidance to interns in their internship meetings. Helped resolve issues, uncertainty, etc.

Creating Friday DPD's

Each week a new Culture Club topic presentation was created and lead. Included information, team/individual activities, games and videos.



Intern Projects



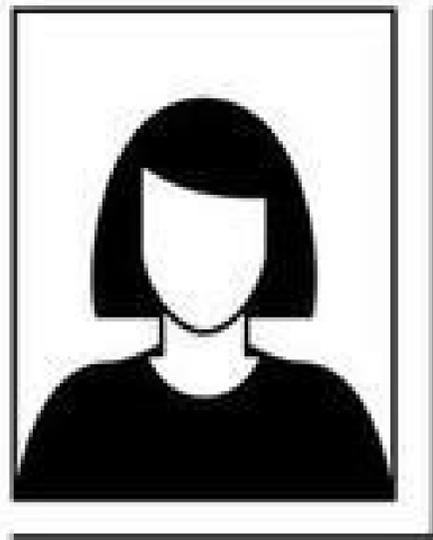
Employee Interview Project

Interview five individuals, discussing their experiences and journey at Kennedy Krieger.

Other Support

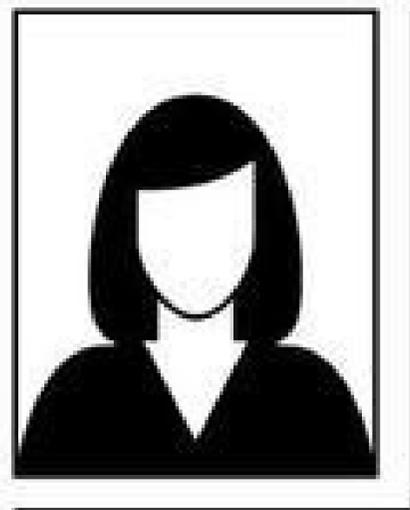
- Daily Service Notes - Apricot
- Family Communication Emails

Meet the Employees



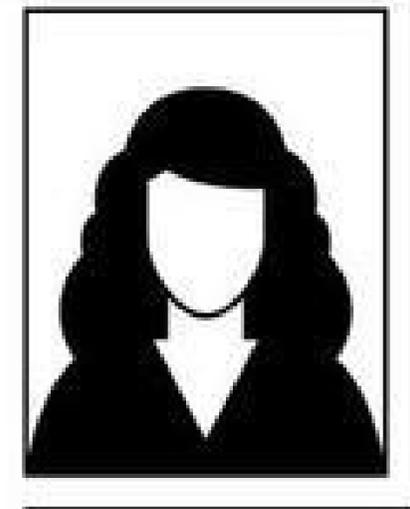
Melissa Wells

Talent Acquisition Partner
Enjoys reading and spending time
with her granddaughter



Sarah Welch

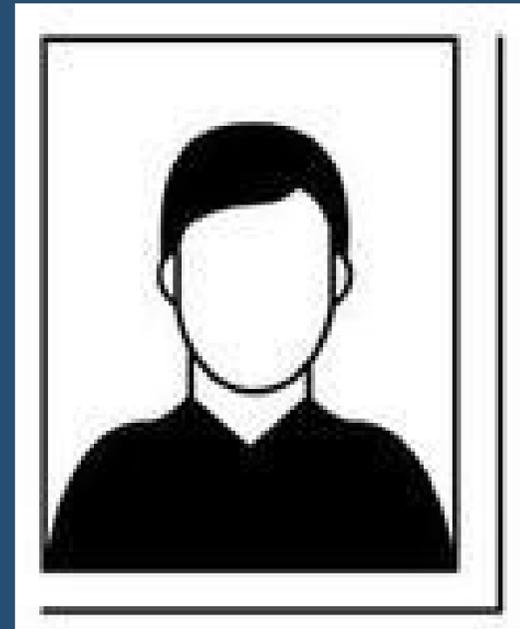
Occupational Therapist
Enjoys Cooking/Baking & Outdoor
Activities



Becca Colangelo

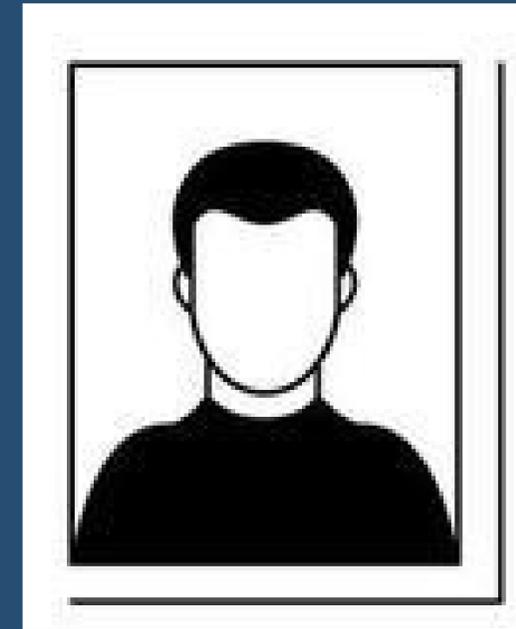
Project SEARCH Coordinator
Enjoys listening to music and is a
huge dog mom

Meet the Community Members[<][>]



Lisa and Michael Shallue

Community Member Parent



John Good

Project SEARCH Intern

Overarching Themes

Support System

Importance of good leadership and team

Higher Education

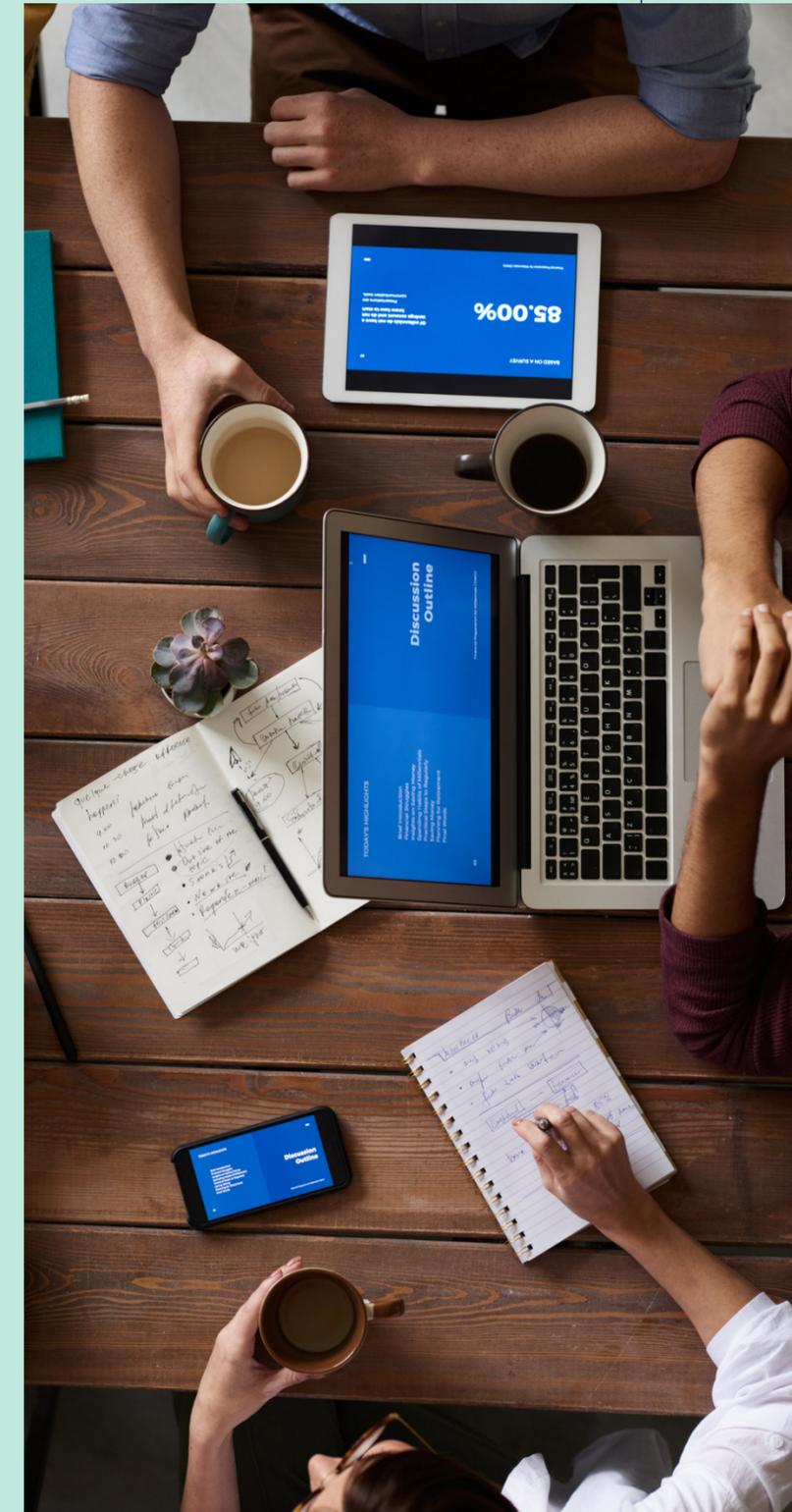
Important philosophy and advice

Growth

Professional and personal

Flexibility

Future plans and adapting to change





SUPPORT SYSTEM

- Good Supervisors make a difference
- Push to progress
- Team approach

Melissa Wells and Becca March





Higher Education & Growth

- Encouraging environment
- Support and growth in the Institute
- Constant exposure to new...



Melissa Wells & Sarah Welch

Flexibility

- Be flexible with your plans
- Be open to adapt in the moment
- Implement new things



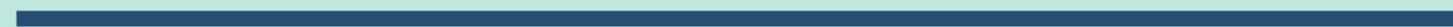
Sarah Welch and Lisa/Michael Shallue





Interview Takeaways

- Growth occurs when you're flexible with your plans and persistent with your goals
- A good support system will help you in your career path
- Communication, dedication, and teamwork are key



3 things I will take with me



The Importance of Teamwork

Having a good team flow allows for steady continuation of plans and resolves issues in the future.

Self-Management

Managing my time, work and communication with others.

Oral & Written Communication Skills

Engaging and ensuring my message is accurately received.



Letter to Future Intern

To: Future Intern,

Congratulations on being part of Kennedy Krieger Institute! You will be working with a group of very supportive, hardworking, and wonderful people. I had the privilege to work closely with the Project SEARCH team, during my internship. Project SEARCH is held in a classroom-like setting, everyone spends their sessions together unless they have individual works that need to be worked on. All the interns are really sweet, once you have gotten familiar with everyone it will be less overwhelming.

The starting process can be overwhelming, try to get started on everything as soon as you can. You'll have to make appointments for many things, so you don't want to leave till the last minute. All our supervisors are great, mine was Becca Colangelo, and she is awesome. Don't be nervous to ask her questions, she will help clear out any confusion you have. Meeting the interns (who are the clients) will make you nervous but they are all nice you just have to get to know them. Observe how the staff members interact with the interns and transition to new topics, it will help you when you lead your DPD. At some point, you will make your presentations and lead, make sure to add activities and games ever so often so the DPD is more interactive. The internship project is really interesting because it allows you to get to know other people's experiences. Make sure to reach out to everyone in time and carve out a time so you can meet with everyone. This is such a talented group of people and they all have different backgrounds, if you want to know more just reach out to them they will share and give advice. The other interns and I met with Stacey just to have a conversation about various topics such as this internship, future employment, etc. I would advise doing that.

You will learn a lot of skills in these internships and get to know some amazing people. This is a great workplace to grow from and learn about how to work with others. I hope you will have as amazing of an experience as I did! Good Luck!

Sincerely,

Vanessa William

thank you

Interviewees:

Becca March

John Good

Lisa and Michael Shallue

Melissa Wells

Sarah Welch

Project Coordinators:

Becca Colangelo

Stacey Herman

Cassidy Love

Rebecca Schmaus

