Meet an Armstrong Mentor!

Erin Hinely is the Interim Co-Director of the office of Field Experiences, Clinical Practice and Partnerships for Armstrong’s College of Education. She is currently mentoring Johannah in the College of Education. Erin was first introduced to Project Search when she first began working for the College of Education because there was an intern in the Dean’s office. Not long after she was approached by JayJay Hendrix, the Project SEARCH transition specialist, about mentoring an intern herself. After seeing the rewarding nature of this program for the interns and job sites alike, this was an easy yes for Erin. Due to Johannah being Erin’s 4th intern, she had no concerns and was honored to continue being part of an incredible program. Erin says, “Project SEARCH is probably one of the most rewarding programs I have been a part of. Our interns bring joy and positivity to the workplace. I am constantly impressed by the desire all of my interns have had to work, the desire they have to please their supervisor, and the desire to want to do well for themselves.”

After being introduced to the faculty and staff in the department, Johannah adjusted very quickly and jumped right into asking for tasks to complete. Erin states that over the past few months she has noticed that Johann’s confidence in herself and knowledge has greatly increased, she welcomes students and faculty into the department and is able to answer their questions, and she is not afraid to ask questions if she needs further clarification. She believes Johannah’s strengths are that she is not afraid to take initiative, she is polite, encouraging, personable and extremely helpful. Erin says she continues to learn more and more about perseverance with every intern she mentors, “it’s a beautiful thing to witness the drive Johannah shows.” Erin is helping Johann, and previous interns, by giving them what she believes is the best experience, and that would-be hands-on experience! Erin believes you should allow these interns to personally show you what they are capable of, so if your department of job site would like to become involved in Project SEARCH please contact Dr. JayJay Hendrix with your name, department or job site, and potential positions at: Jayjay.Hendrix@sccpss.com.
Meet Johannah!

Johannah Castro is a Savannah Native who graduated from Forest High School. One of her high school teachers helped teach her about Project SEARCH and got her in touch with a transition specialist. She is currently interning at Armstrong’s College of Education, where she is given hands-on work experience. Her tasks include filing, greeting students, pulling word and excel documents, and assisting the professors in other various tasks. Johannah believes that her kindness and hardworking personality help her excel at her internship. She is eager to learn as much as she can through her direct mentor, Erin, as well as her other mentors in the office, Mrs. Donatelli and Interim Dean Dr. Bolton. Johannah’s time with Project SEARCH has helped her realize that “life is not always fun and games, you will always face one challenge or another, but when it is time to work you have to focus on what’s in front of you.” Johannah’s goals with Project SEARCH are to gain as much experience as possible to help her become more independent in living and be able to sustain a job. She mentioned, “I have learned so much in my time with Project SEARCH and without them, I wouldn’t know where to turn to learn the skills they have been teaching me.” Outside of work she enjoys helping her family around their house and spending time with her dog (Marley) and cat (Lilo), and is really hoping to be able to work with animals at some point in her future.