

## Fifth Third Bank Project SEARCH Success Stories:



"Through Project SEARCH, Nathan experienced a variety of jobs in various departments. Fifth Third Bank has given him the opportunity to use those skills. Since he has started his job in June of 2005, his job responsibilities have included filing, scanning, and faxing. His lunch and break times are shared with his co-workers. Nathan is very fortunate to work with a group of caring individuals at Fifth Third Bank in Madisonville." -Jan Michelson, parent of graduate Nathan Michelson



"I have enjoyed meeting new people. My job coaches are great. I enjoy my job of filing. I get to open the file room and put away important documents. I also enjoy eating lunch in the big building downtown. I think this is a great opportunity for me at Fifth Third Bank with Project SEARCH." -Tiffany Holmes, Project SEARCH Student

### Fifth Third Bank Leadership Testimony



"The Project SEARCH community, whether the Advisory Board, job coaches, or on-site teachers, help us at Fifth Third Bank become successful partners.

As experts in running this type of program, they offer the experience to truly make our students successful. Fifth Third sees Project SEARCH as an opportunity to strengthen the community and a true recruitment strategy.

We achieve both these things by helping our students learn valuable and transferable life and employment skills."-Teresa Tanner, Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resource Officer.

### How Do Students Get Enrolled with Project SEARCH?

Each student applies to the program and is accepted through a selection committee process. Application packets are due by end of March.

Acceptance is communicated by end of April with enrollment beginning in August or September of the same year. Contact Amy, Jackie or Victoria below for more information:

#### Grand Rapids Public School Students:

Contact Amy Worfel at 616-819-3600 or worfela@grps.k12.mi.us

#### Great Oaks students:

Contact Jackie Gardiner at 513-612-3659 or gardinej@greatoaks.com

#### Cincinnati Public School students:

Contact Victoria G. Crook at 513-363-0288 or Crookvi@cpsboe.k12.oh.us

### About Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a collaboration of six entities: Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Great Oaks Vocational, Cincinnati Public Schools, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services, and Fifth Third Bank.

### About Fifth Third Bancorp

Fifth Third Bancorp is a diversified financial services company headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Company has \$113 billion in assets, operates 16 affiliates with 1,309 full-service Banking Centers, including 103 Bank Mart® locations open seven days a week inside select grocery stores and 2,358 ATMs in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Florida, Tennessee, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Georgia and North Carolina. Fifth Third operates four main businesses: Commercial Banking, Branch Banking, Consumer Lending, and Investment Advisors. Fifth Third also has a 49% interest in Fifth Third Processing Solutions, LLC. Fifth Third is among the largest money managers in the Midwest and, as of December 31, 2009, has \$187 billion in assets under care, of which it managed \$25 billion for individuals, corporations and not-for-profit organizations. Investor information and press releases can be viewed at [www.53.com](http://www.53.com). Fifth Third's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ® National Global Select Market under the symbol "FITB."

### Project SEARCH Business Liason



Mitch Morgan is responsible for leading and managing day-to-day operations of Fifth Third Bank's Project SEARCH program. He coordinates all aspects of the Program from recruiting to advising to marketing.

He started his career with Fifth Third Bank in June of 2005 as a Customer Service Trainer in the Call Center Customer Service area.

Mitch brings 10 years of education experience in the financial arena.

Before becoming a Fifth Third team member, Mitch worked as a Senior Education Specialist with Provident Bank where he was involved in the implementation of self-directed work teams, new hire orientation, and sales conferences and workshops.

Mitch is a member of the American Society of Training and Development and attended Xavier University to receive his training certification.

Fifth Third Bank's Project SEARCH is a **HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION TO WORK PROGRAM** that provides employment and education opportunities to individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities. Fifth Third Bank focuses on providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to gain marketable and transferable skills.

## Why Project SEARCH?



Project SEARCH is a one-year, high school transition program that provides training and education that may lead to employment for individuals with disabilities.

Project SEARCH serves as an alternative for students in their last year of high school. Three elective high school credits can be earned for successful completion of the Project SEARCH program.

The cornerstone of Project SEARCH is total immersion in a large business. Five days a week, students report to the host business, learn employability skills in the classroom and job skills while participating in a variety of internships/experiences.

Certified special education teachers and job coaches work with both the students and the business staff. Students end their day by reflection, problem solving, planning and journaling their key learnings.

The ultimate goal upon program completion and graduation is to utilize their internship skills for gainful employment.

## Why Fifth Third Bank Project SEARCH?

-Three 10-week rotations with a focus on transferable skills (data entry, computer applications, customer service, phone skills, mail sorting, loan processing, credit card processing and support, etc.)

-An environment that embraces diversity and demonstrates a strong commitment to the program, to employment and growth opportunities.

-Public Transportation partnership and ample parking spaces on campus for drivers.

-Three dedicated classrooms in Madisonville, downtown Cincinnati and Grand Rapids, with on-site cafeteria and ATM.

-A dedicated Fifth Third Project SEARCH Program Liaison.

-Brown Bag Education Sessions offered to all employees that focus on "How to Communicate with People Who Have Disabilities".

-Quarterly networking opportunities for both students and Project SEARCH graduates, their managers and co-workers.

## Assistant Secretary of Labor meets Fifth Third Project SEARCH

W. Roy Grizzard, recently retired Assistant Secretary for the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, visited Fifth Third Bank in Cincinnati on May 24, 2007 to discuss employment initiatives in partnership with Project SEARCH and other efforts to recruit job applicants with disabilities. Dr. Grizzard also met with Project SEARCH graduates who are now full-time Fifth Third employees.

Since 1998, more than 150 individuals with disabilities have been employed through Project SEARCH in challenging and rewarding jobs throughout the Greater Cincinnati area, including at Fifth Third Bank. The program received the US secretary of labor's New Freedom Initiative Award in 2004.



*Dr. Grizzard (wearing a red tie) is flanked by Project SEARCH graduates, students, job coaches, instructors, and few of the Fifth Third employees who met with him for lunch.*