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Lakeway Regional Medical Center and Community Partners Team Up to Help Prepare Lakeway-Area Teens with Disabilities for Jobs and Independence

Project SEARCH Internship Program to Create Better and Clearer Paths for Area Students

LAKEWAY, Texas – August 11, 2016 – Lakeway Regional Medical Center, a state-of-the-art medical campus dedicated to the delivery of quality healthcare, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Easter Seals Central Texas and the Lake Travis and Eanes ISDs today announced the expansion of the Project SEARCH program to provide internships to Lake Travis and Westlake-area teens with disabilities.

Project SEARCH is a national internship program designed for students with disabilities during their last year of high school. Throughout the school year, students participate in an immersive program that includes training, career exploration, and job coaching. The student receives three targeted internships on a rotating basis, learning core skills necessary for entry-level employment and then growing and building on those skills with assistance from a mentor and a job coach.

DARS has implemented Project SEARCH in three Central Texas locations to date, including Austin, Round Rock and San Marcos. For the introduction of Project SEARCH to Lake Travis and Eanes ISD students, DARS will partner with Easter Seals Central as the Community Rehabilitation Partner. The organization will work with the interns to provide job coaching and support throughout the year as well as assistance with job placement into permanent work once the school year has ended.

“DARS provides services to both students and adults with disabilities to transition them into the working world by addressing their disabilities and barriers to employment, exploring viable vocational goals, and assisting them with obtaining and maintaining employment,” said Cassandra Moya, Area Manager for DARS. “We provide vocational counseling and guidance to address each intern’s disability and disability-related impediments to employment to assist them with being successful in the workplace.”

Lakeway Regional Medical Center will serve as a host business site for the Project

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DARS and Lakeway Regional Medical Center Announce Launch of Project SEARCH,

SEARCH program in Lake Travis, working in conjunction with Lake Travis ISD and Eanes ISD to provide internship opportunities to area high school students. The students will take part in a variety of meaningful tasks to acquire competitive, marketable and transferable skills that will enable them to apply for related entry-level positions upon graduation.

“It is a privilege to partner with an organization of the caliber of Easter Seals Central Texas, and to have the opportunity to play a valuable role in helping prepare high school students for jobs and independence in our Central Texas communities,” said Philippe Bochaton, CEO of Lakeway Regional Medical Center. “We are committed to providing exceptional, patient focused care with respect and compassion, while being actively involved in the education and betterment of the communities we serve, and we can’t think of a more appropriate partnership to further this mission.”

For more information about the Project SEARCH program at LRMC, or to see how you can participate, please contact Lauren Hargrove, Transition Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, at lauren.hargrove@twc.state.tx.us or 512-383-7040.

About Lakeway Regional Medical Center

Lakeway Regional Medical Center (LRMC) is a state-of-the-art medical campus dedicated to the delivery of world-class healthcare. LRMC provides services in emergency medicine, neurosurgery, orthopedics, neurology, cardiology, general surgery, gastroenterology and women’s health. For more information about LRMC, visit LakewayRegional.com or call 512-571-5000.

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