



*Seeking Employment, Equality and Community for
People with Developmental Disabilities*

SEEC E-News

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Meet SEEC Board Member Matt Hardwick: Making Inclusivity a Mission

Our Board of Directors is made up of volunteers who commit to share their gifts and talents to move SEEC's mission forward. We want to thank all our board members and Board President for their support and will continue to share interviews over the next few months.



An entrepreneur who took a risk in starting his own business less than a decade ago, Matt Hardwick is the proud CEO of ResInnova Laboratories, a microbiology laboratory focused on antimicrobial product testing. As the need for his services accelerated during the pandemic, his business tripled its space and staff. Business continues booming, and the company recently celebrated its eighth anniversary.

Upon learning about SEEC at a Greater Silver Spring Chamber event, Matt decided there was an opportunity to hire someone SEEC supports because ResInnova lab work is very repetitive and precise—skills that are well suited to individuals with intellectual disabilities. After working with the employment services team, Matt hired Bridget, who recently celebrated her fifth anniversary. She works two to three days a week and is an integral team member.

"Bridget does everything well. We honestly don't know what her cap is. Quite frankly, the sky is the limit for her!"

Matt was a member of the SEEC's Business Advisory Council, got involved in the FootGolf and Gala committees and, last year, joined the Board of Directors. His belief in and active embrace of SEEC's mission ensures our work can make the strongest possible community impact.



"It is important that people try to get to know this [disability] community. It deserves more support than it gets, and we need to be more inclusive as a society."

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Sherry Beamer, SEEC Director of Services, Selected to Join Leadership Montgomery's CORE (Connecting Our Region's Execs) Program



CORE is a highly selective program offered by the non-profit, Leadership Montgomery. It allows participants to learn from other leaders and decision makers across the County as they explore pressing issues and examine important trends impacting the region. SEEC CEO Karen Lee is an alumnus of the program and now celebrates Director Sherry Beamer joining the new CORE cohort. She will connect with the diverse group of current and alumni leaders to explore the challenges and tools best suited to the needs of the County. Congratulations Sherry!

SEEC's New Office Space Receives Eight Original Artworks Through Art Connection in the Capital Region

In preparation for the move to new office space in 2023, SEEC applied for a donation from the Art Connection in the Capital Region. Envisioning a space that functions as a creative, community hub for all its stakeholders, the art will offer staff and visitors a place to enjoy and reflect. Thank you to the late Cynthia Myers Young and her team for this donation!



SEEC is Excited to Welcome 24 New Project SEARCH Interns



Project SEARCH is SEEC's ten-month program designed for young adults with disabilities to gain the skills and experience needed to be successful in today's workforce. This year, Project SEARCH welcomed 12 new interns at the Embassy Suites/Capital Hilton, six interns at the National Institute of Health, and six interns at the Montgomery County program.

The staff team had the chance to meet three of SEEC's Embassy Suites/Capital Hilton program interns who shared their experiences. Tre'Sean and Malcom joined the program to gain knowledge and tap into resources necessary for success in the hospitality industry and Nelson is looking to develop the critical skills he needs to be a productive adult in the future. We wish these three interns and all interns a successful year.

Welcome to all our new Project SEARCH interns. We cannot wait to see how the program will support your dreams and put you on the path to the career of your choice.

Direct Support Professionals Making a Difference One Person at a Time

The people we support sometimes need SEEC staff to assist them during their medical challenges. Over the summer, Richard James was recognized as SEEC's July Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) Making a Difference.

A member of SEEC's Supported Living Team, Richard James was nominated in the competency area of assessment. Thanks to Richard's quick thinking and know-how, he was able to assess the person he supports when they started developing health issues and acted via the nurse directive.

Congratulations Richard!



DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE MONTH



RICHARD JAMES

Last Week SEEC Celebrated National Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week!

DSPs are at the heart of SEEC's mission, and we welcome the opportunity to show our gratitude! Each day last week, SEEC's DSPs were celebrated in some way with gifts, meals and activities. Families and caregivers joined the celebration by sending notes and heartfelt letters to DSPs supporting their loved ones.

On Thursday, DSPs shared snapshots of their daily activities with the people they support for SEEC Spirit day. You can see them on SEEC's [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts. Seeing people in the community brought a sense of joy and pride to everyone part of SEEC's mission.

The week culminated with an all staff appreciation party at The Eleanor in Silver Spring where SEEC's DSP of the year 2022 and runner up were announced! Mercedes McKeel, Community Engagement, won DSP of the Year and runner up was Ana Morales from Supported Living. Congratulations to Mercedes and Ana and a great big thank you to all of SEEC's DSPs for their amazing work! We appreciate you!



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