

SPOTLIGHT STORIES



Josh loves to get his hands dirty, so he is especially at home in the Transportation Services mechanic shop, where he is learning basic vehicle maintenance under the guidance of experienced shop mechanic Ben Anderson.



Josh, 19, interns five days a week at Transportation Services, which proudly partners with Project SEARCH, a nationwide initiative that connects businesses with intellectually challenged young adults in their respective communities. Locally, the program is administered by the Arc of Story County.

Transportation Services Shop Manager Butch Hansen routinely schedules Project SEARCH interns in the vehicle prep area, where they learn how to clean the vehicles that have been returned and get them ready for the next reservation. After a few weeks in prep, Hansen pairs students with a mechanic to learn basic vehicle maintenance. "Once you put them in the shop, they never want to go back to cleaning cars," jokes Hansen.

Josh says mostly everything comes easy to him. He is looking forward to learning how to rotate tires. Regarding the staff at Transportation, "They're all nice people, and we all get along."

The eldest of six children in his family, Josh attended school in Nevada and Boone. At Boone High School, he was the football manager for four years. That experience served him well during his other Project SEARCH internship in the ISU Athletic Department. The only difference between a high school locker room and a college locker room is the size, not necessarily the work.

Josh has also interned in ISU Dining and thinks he might like to get a job in that department. While he likes to cook (curry meatballs are a specialty), he really likes cleaning and busing tables.

