



News Release

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Caption for Photo: Geoff Lawson, Vice President & General Manager, at The National Conference Center accepts the Project Search “Employment Outreach Award” from Emily Meyers, Employment Specialist, Didlake Inc. in early December 2018.

The National Conference Center Wins “Employment Outreach Award” From Project SEARCH Cincinnati Headquarters *First Hospitality Entity to Win This Award*

Leesburg, Virginia, December, 2018 ... The [National Conference Center](#), the largest hospitality employer in Loudoun County, recently won the prestigious “Employment Outreach Award” from the Project SEARCH headquarters at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, the birthplace of Project SEARCH.

Project SEARCH has recognized The National for their employment record this past year. Out of the 10 students in the 2017 graduating class nine were offered positions in the community. Project SEARCH recognizes program sites that have achieved 70% to 100% competitive employment for all participants in a given program year. The awardees are recognized at a formal awards ceremony at the Project SEARCH International Conference each summer. At the 2018 Project SEARCH Annual Conference in Savannah, GA, 196 program sites from 34 states and 3 countries were recognized for achieving 70% to 100% employment for their 2017 program graduates.

“Every single manager and employee on our team enjoys teaching and mentoring to these



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students. They are smart, capable and fun to be around. We are proud to receive this award and will continue with this program in the future. We encourage other businesses to do the same,” says Geoff Lawson, Vice President & General Manager, The National.

Lawson worked closely with the Loudoun County Public Schools to bring Project SEARCH to The National three years ago. Each year The National takes 10 students for 10 months and rotates them through different departments throughout the property. Each student works 10 weeks in one of several departments — culinary, maintenance, IT, grounds-keeping, housekeeping, front desk and events.

When the team at The National was asked about participating in this program, they were willing and eager to work with this population. Team members say that they have learned more from the students than the students from them. It’s been a win-win partnership. “Thank you everyone from The National for your support in each of your roles. We couldn’t do it without each and every one of you. A special shout out to Emily Meyers, job development coach, for her excellent effort in the community,” said Heather Brewington, M. Ed., Transition Teacher, Loudoun County Public Schools.

For more information about The National Conference Center’s awards, click [here](#).

About The National Conference Center

[The National Conference Center](#), with 150 flexible meeting rooms totaling 265,000 sq. ft., is a blank canvas, primed for learning and education. The expansive complex, located on 65-wooded acres in Northern Virginia, boasts an 880-seat dining room, 917 guest rooms and the largest ballroom in the Washington, DC area. The National is more than a meeting facility -- it can be completely transformed into the ideal environment for a training and development meeting. Winner of seven industry awards including “Best Conference Center” by Smart Meetings, "Hotel of the Year" by Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association, a member of IACC, formerly the International Association of Conference Centres, and an approved GSA Schedule member. The National provides a customizable, distraction-free setting that maximizes productivity, learning, and engagement. [@TheNationalNoVa](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#)

The National Conference Center complex includes the [West Belmont Place](#) Event Center that includes Northern Virginia’s largest ballroom (16,552 square feet). The hub for Loudoun County and surrounding area social and special events, West Belmont Place was named “Best Venue” by the International Special Events Society. [@WestBelmont](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

The National Conference Center is owned by NCC PS Enterprises LLC, a venture between PCCP LLC and Stoneleigh Capital LLC. For information call 800-640-2684 or visit www.conferencecenter.com and www.westbelmontplace.com.

About Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH provides employability skills training and workplace internships for individuals with significant disabilities, particularly youth transitioning from high school to adult life. Project SEARCH originated at Cincinnati Children's and now has program sites throughout the United States and the United Kingdom. There are several local programs that serve youth in Greater Cincinnati, including one at Cincinnati Children's. To learn more about Project SEARCH, [click here](#).

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