# The Georgia Academy for the Blind Partners with Project Search

Project Search is a nine month long, total immersion, school-to-work program that affords students opportunities that they will never get on campus or on a regular work-based learning site.

Navicent Health Center, which is classified as a Level I Trauma Center located in Macon GA, was selected for the opportunity.

Seniors from GAB apply for the 3 internship slots at Navicent Health Center.

**GA VR purchased the required uniforms and authorized O&M and VRT services through a private provider, John Crawford, with Tactile Travel.**

Students began their experience at Navicent Health in September of 2017 by becoming acclimated to the hospital and purchasing their uniforms so that they would be recognized as part of the Navicent Health staff.

In addition to the orientation and mobility training to teach them how to safely navigate around the hospital, to and from each rotation site, the cafeteria, and their classroom, John Crawford taught them the skills and techniques to perform the various jobs. ***By the end of the school year, the students will have each participated in three different work rotations, each in a different department. Some of the departments they have worked in include Environmental Services, Linen, Supply and Distribution, and Food Services.***

**This experience has improved the student’s self-advocacy skills and soft skills. The students have built great relationships and made great connections with the staff in the hospital including the heads of their departments, co-workers in their departments, and other hospital staff that they see throughout the hospital on a daily basis.**

Aside from learning the skills needed for different jobs within their department, ***the students are also learning other invaluable skills that will transfer to a job once they graduate from GAB in May 2018.*** Some of these skills include orientation and mobility, interpersonal, self-advocacy, money management, and transportation skills. The students are able to practice budgeting their money by planning for meals in the hospital cafeteria five days a week. In the event the student chooses not to eat in the cafeteria, he or she is responsible for shopping for and preparing a lunch to take that day. The students are also responsible for taking their own Uber to and from the hospital each day, and are reimbursed by VR by turning in their receipts at the end of each month. ***The students have made significant noticeable improvements since the beginning of the year and are well on their way to being ready for work when they graduate.***

The short slideshow below shows some of their experiences with Project Search at Navicent.

