



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 7, 2018

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**ICYMI: Gov. Walker's Commitment to Project SEARCH on Display at Graduation**

[Madison, Wis.] – Scott Walker joined Project SEARCH graduates in West Bend Wednesday to celebrate their achievements and reiterate his commitment to ensuring that we are assisting students with disabilities as they enter the workforce.

With Gov. Walker leading the way in developing our workforce with people with disabilities, Project SEARCH has seen significant growth throughout Wisconsin. When the governor first took office, there was just one program site in the state – now, at the start of the next school year, there will be 27 and Wisconsin has become known as a national leader in hiring disabled workers. In addition, the governor's campaign released [an ad last week spotlighting the impact the program has had on a Wisconsin Project SEARCH graduate](#). Scott Walker's support for Project SEARCH is strengthening Wisconsin's already world-class workforce and will help Wisconsin win the 21st century.

Read more from Express News [here](#) or find excerpts below:

***Governor promotes Project Search success during West Bend appearance***

*Thomas J. McKillen*

*Express News*

Gov. Scott Walker highlighted the success of the local Project Search initiative during an appearance in West Bend June 6.

According to information from the state Department of Workforce Development, "Project SEARCH is a business led collaboration that enables young adults with disabilities to gain and maintain employment through training and career exploration."

Nine Project Search graduates were recognized during a completion ceremony at the West Bend Mutual Insurance Prairie Center June 6.

"The nine interns who have completed the program today are part of 190 who have completed

programs across the state,” Walker said, adding there are currently 24 Project Search initiatives statewide with 27 planned for next year. Walker noted the program has expanded from one site when he took office as governor to the 27 that will be in place next fall. Walker said that funding for the program was instituted just over four years which led to the increase in the number of Project Search programs offered statewide.

“This is not about charity. These young people get identifiable skills to help them enter the workforce,” Walker said. He noted that 88 percent of graduates are employed within a year.

“This is part of our focus on breaking down barriers. We can’t afford to have anyone who willingly is interested in working not in the workforce,” Walker said. ...

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