

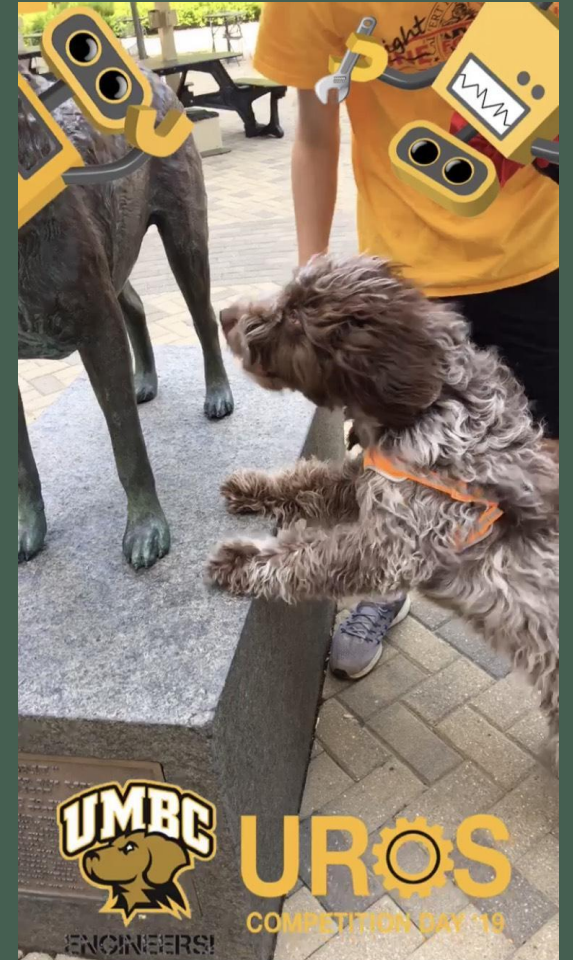


# INTERNING WITH MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Heather Hinson

# About me

- I am a graduating senior in the Public Health program at UMBC.
- I am on the pre-Occupational Therapy track.
- I am currently working weekends at Brightview Senior Living.
- Prior to working here, I was a physical therapist technician.



# Project SEARCH Trainee

- I planned Daily Professional Developments.
- I led afternoon activities.
  - Scavenger hunts
  - Photo collage activity
  - Arts and crafts
- I documented service notes and sent out family communications.
- I provided support to multiple interns at their internships.
- I helped with afternoon dismissals.



# My Project

- I interviewed three individuals: an employee, a community member, and a community member's parent.
- The series of questions allowed me to learn more about the services and the impact they have had on each individual.
- After the completion of all three interviews, I found similar concepts between them that accurately represents Meaningful Community Services.

# Thematic Statements

Meaningful Community Services...



creates environments that welcome **collaboration**.

promotes **inclusivity** and embraces each and every person and their needs.

provides a foundation of compassion through consistent **support**.

# Shared Experiences and Themes

For each statement, one or two interviewees had experiences that closely aligned with the statement.

- Joshua and Laurel were both involved in a collaborative environments.
- Laurel and Lori both explained the inclusiveness of Meaningful Community Services.
- Joshua and Lori shared the high level of support they feel in the community.

# What I've Learned

Meaningful Community Services is truly a collaborative, inclusive, and supportive community.

1. There are so many interesting individuals that are brought together by Meaningful Community Services.
2. The importance of a strong willed, cohesive, and diverse team is necessary.
3. It is clear that the connections in this community helps people with disabilities gain insight to employment opportunities.





# Letter to a Future Intern

Dear future intern,

You will start your time here with a description of the kind of work you will be doing and how amazing the experience will be. You will realize early on how amazing it really is here. There is a lot to learn in your first week but, you will be so comfortable with the Meaningful Community Services environment. Everyone on the team is welcoming and kind and the Project SEARCH interns will not be able to wait to get to know you. The best is that they treat you like you are part of the team from the start. As the weeks go on, your responsibilities will change as you become a bigger part of the team. It can be stressful but just know that what you are doing matters. It is work that pushes you to reach higher limits of learning and you will grow as a person in this field.

You will learn about different communication methods that work best for people with disabilities and you will learn how to highlight key topics and goals of employment through this communication. You will enhance your skills of being patient, receptive, and concise by expanding upon the ways you talk to people here.

I have had an amazing time and new doors have been opened for me that I never thought imaginable.

Best of luck,

Heather