

Amber Bennett is a skilled VCU Employment Specialist who seamlessly assisted her Project SEARCH student, Ocie, in locating a patient transport assistant position at VCU Health System.

Ocie was a student intern in the 2018-19 Project SEARCH cohort at VCU Health. Typically, Project SEARCH students complete three internships over the course of the school year. Ocie, however, only made it through the first one. Why only one? Because he did so well in that first internship in patient transport, that they wanted to hire him immediately. Striking while the iron was hot, Amber helped Ocie apply for the position and by January, Ocie was officially an employee of VCU Health Systems.

Ocie works a set schedule of Monday through Friday from 8am to 12pm. He usually has one of two types of assignments. Amber refers to the first assignment as an assistantship. This is where he is partnered up with another patient transport technician and assists in transporting patients throughout the hospitals. Yes, that's hospitals, plural – Ocie's territory covers six hospitals in the VCU Health System. One of his strengths was that he quickly learned how to navigate the hospitals when starting at SEARCH, a key skill to have in patient transport. When he is not partnered up with another transporter, Ocie has another set of tasks he can do. These extra tasks were a necessary addition to keep him busy and were strategically carved out by Amber. His customized tasks include keeping the wheelchair stations stocked and evenly distributed, operating the elevator for transport calls, running specimens from hospital rooms to labs, and cleaning stretchers.



Jeff, the Patient Transport Dispatcher enjoys working with Ocie and reports that he is, "excellent to work with and intuitive about his assignments." Sean Hicks, the Patient Transport Supervisor lists several qualities in Ocie that make him an outstanding employee, "Great work ethic! He asks questions when he needs to, he's on time and always willing to do what is asked of him, he's reliable, trustworthy, has great manners, and a positive attitude." From this glowing feedback, you can tell that Ocie conveys a real sense of responsibility to his coworkers. The team is tightly-knit and they support Ocie just as much as he supports them.

When asked, Ocie replied that his favorite part of the job was being able to walk around. Ocie loves to stay busy but working behind a desk may not have been the preferred setting for him. Amber noticed this and other elements as to why patient transport was a great fit for Ocie. She knew that it required independence and initiative, flexibility with assignments, navigating skills, and the maturity and interpersonal skills to work with the patients. With all of these elements lining up for Ocie and the patient transport team, it is easy to see why this is such a great job match.

GREAT WORK AMBER AND OCIE!!