



Starting in September of 2015 a team of six students from Concord High School participated in the Source America Design Challenge which is a national competition to design workplace technology for people with disabilities. High schools partner with organizations that employ people with disabilities to invent a process, device, system, or software that creates a more productive work environment. This service learning opportunity develops engineering, computer science, communication, writing, math, presentation, and social skills all while helping the community.

The team partnered with Christiana Care Health System and Project SEARCH where they met their subject matter expert Justin. After seeing the struggle Justin had while working his pharmacy internship the team set out to develop the “Scan and Sort” system that helps employees sort unused medications and organize them alphabetically. The device uses a barcode scanner to scan each medicine label. The information from the label is then put into a program. The program indicates audibly and visually which bin the medicine should be placed in making it easier for employees with disabilities to sort the items alphabetically and meet the same standards as other employees. Because of this device Justin has the opportunity to turn his internship into a paid position at the hospital. Other local hospitals have reached out to the team interested in getting a Scan and Sort of their own. Future developments around the device revolve around turning it into an app. The team has applied for a patent and is continuing to develop their idea