



2013- 2014 PA Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA Project Information & Abstracts

In conjunction with the PA State Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), Pennsylvania Campus Compact (PACC) is pleased to announce the following 2013-2014 AmeriCorps*VISTA opportunities. With the main goal of eradicating poverty and long-term capacity for communities, PACC*VISTA members serve across Pennsylvania at institutions of higher education and respective community partners. Over twenty positions are available in the 2013-2014 program year in two main focus areas: Education (K-12 Academic Achievement and College Access) and Healthy Futures (Food Access). In addition to addressing pressing communities needs and fostering community engagement and change at institutions of higher education, PACC*VISTAs are supported with professional and leadership development opportunities through PACC and at their host campus. PACC provides three overnight-training experiences and ongoing training and technical assistance to PACC*VISTAs.

For additional information about PACC or the overarching PACC*VISTA program, please visit our website at www.paccompact.org or contact Amy Carraux Price at acprice@paccompact.org. For more information about specific service opportunities, please see the 2013-2014 project abstracts listed in ABC order by focus area.

To apply for a PACC*VISTA position, please perform an Advanced Search at the AmeriCorps website (or click here: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/publicRequestSearch.do>) and search for AmeriCorps*VISTA projects in Pennsylvania. Include "PACC" in the program name or search by individual program names outlined below.

13-14 PACC*VISTA benefits include:

- Annual living allowance of \$11,352 or \$12,312
- End of Service Award - Education Award of \$5,550 or Cash Stipend of \$1,500.
- Health Coverage provided by Seven Corners
- Relocation support and Child Care Benefits, if eligible
- Professional development and support from PA Campus Compact
- Additional resources may be provided by specific institution or project

13-14 PACC*VISTA term of service:

July 26, 2013 - July 25, 2014 (Tentative)

A mandatory Pre Service Orientation (provided both by PACC and CNCS) begins July 21, 2013.

2013-2014 PACC*VISTA EDUCATION ABSTRACTS: K-12 Academic Achievement Projects

Institution Name: Alvernia University – Education

Program Name in AmeriCorps: Alvernia University – Education - PACC

Host Site Supervisor Name: Jessica Umbenhauer

Host Site Supervisor Email: jessica.umbenhauer@alvernia.edu



The VISTA member will identify opportunities for Alvernia READS volunteers to distribute books to children in the City of Reading through twice monthly readings in target classrooms throughout the Reading School District, visits to after-school and day care programs, hosting tables at community events and working with other organizations promoting literacy. The VISTA member will focus on resource development for Alvernia READS, the United Way of Berks County and the Greater Reading Cops N Kids Program by organizing book drives and discussing opportunities for support with local businesses and corporations. The VISTA member will also work with Alvernia faculty, staff and students to gather support from the University through service-learning classes and individual volunteer activities. The VISTA member will also be responsible for designing and implementing data collection and assessment tools to examine whether regular access to books and engaging literacy activities assists in increasing the literacy levels and academic achievement of the students and will share this information with stakeholders in the community.

Institution Name: DeSales University

Program Name in AmeriCorps: DeSales University – PACC

Host Site Supervisor Name: Jaime Gerhart

Host Site Supervisor Email: jaime.gerhart@desales.edu

The 2013-2014 DeSales University PACC*VISTA will work to increase academic achievement of at-risk 6-8th grade students in the Allentown School District. The PACC*VISTA will work closely with the Allentown School District teachers and administrators and the Communities in Schools of the Lehigh Valley staff to help to grow and maintain the 21st Century HOPE program. The 21st Century HOPE program runs Monday through Thursday for two hours after school at Raub, Trexler, and South Mountain Middle Schools. The program focuses on academic improvement with small group tutoring, enrichment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, physical exercise, and character education. The PACC*VISTA is the lead in building character education component. The PACC*VISTA will recruit, train, and manage the forty DeSales University tutor/mentors. The PACC*VISTA will work with advisory board to collect data on the middle school students' grades, attendance, and behavior to assess for improvement. As part of our sustainability plan the PACC*VISTA will work a group of student leaders and the Service and Social Justice Director to build a tutor/mentor manual, a student tutor advisory group, and student administrator roles.

Institution Name: Duquesne University

Program Name in AmeriCorps: Duquesne University - PACC

Host Site Supervisor Name: Temple Lovelace

Host Site Supervisor Email: lovelacet@duq.edu

Duquesne University and Center of Life (www.centeroflife.net) have been in partnership for over six years. Located in the Hazelwood area of Pittsburgh, Center of Life is home to four major educational programs for students that focus on a music and arts education program through hip-hop and jazz; a parent-collaborative afterschool program centered on STEM education; and, a sports-based mentoring initiative for K-12th grade students. The PACC*VISTA member will work directly with key community leaders and Duquesne University stakeholders to create an evaluation framework that utilizes the traditional forms of evaluation as well as cutting-edge evaluation techniques that are rooted in



technology and social media in order to examine the effectiveness of these programs. This proposed project will provide the community with a plan for evaluating their current programs, a method for increasing their capacity to provide more effective programs aimed at eradicating disproportionate educational attainment, and a sustainable evaluation design and data storage solution that be available for all community members and partners to use in their social justice endeavors. The PACC*VISTA member will spearhead the design, organization, and dissemination of the evaluation framework to Duquesne-Hazelwood Partnership members, community members (adults & youth), as well as other key stakeholders involved in this collaboration.

Institution Name: East Stroudsburg University
Program Name in AmeriCorps: East Stroudsburg University - PACC
Host Site Supervisor Name: Beth Sockman and Rhonda Sutton
Host Site Supervisor Email: bsockman@esu.edu; rhondas@esu.edu

East Stroudsburg University has created a dynamic partnership with J. M. Hill Elementary School for supplemental educational programming. The goal of this partnership is to address the academic achievement of at-risk students in grades 3-5 by having the students participate in the “A with B” project. This project focuses on working with the students to improve their achievements in reading and math through afterschool tutoring, mentor days on East Stroudsburg University’s campus and community activities. The VISTA will be engaged in:

- Shaping the existing program for positive sustainability
- Working with a team to discover innovative and effective ways to encourage involvement
- Assisting with curriculum development
- Improving program evaluation process
- Researching best practices and implementation strategies for incorporating the use of data for increasing the quality of services provided
- Overseeing the supervision of volunteers
- Developing a plan for volunteer recruitment, volunteers service, and leadership
- Working with team members to identify needs and continue building a cohesive partnership

Institution Name: King’s College
Program Name in AmeriCorps: King’s College - PACC
Host Site Supervisor Name: William Bolan
Host Site Supervisor Email: williambolan@kings.edu

The King’s College PACC*VISTA will work with King’s and the Volunteers of America (VOA) to expand the scope of four (4) afterschool mentoring/tutoring programs: the Learning Works mentoring program for 5-8th graders run by VOA at King’s College; the VOA Magnolia Project for mentoring young women in grades 9-12; King’s Flood Elementary Afterschool “Homework Help” Program for 1-4th graders; and King’s Hispanic Outreach mentoring program for 9th-12th graders. The VISTA’s responsibilities will include: a) recruiting, managing, and supporting volunteers from King’s College and beyond; b) developing resources such as handbooks to assist current and future program volunteers; c) improving communication between program volunteers, students, student families, and teachers; and d) assisting

with the evaluation of all projects. The VISTA member will be based at the Shoal Center for Community Engagement and Learning at King's College, and will work extensively with the VOA Project Manager and the Director of King's McGowan Hispanic Outreach Program.

Institution Name: Messiah College
Program Name in AmeriCorps: Messiah College - PACC
Host Site Supervisor Name: Chad Frey
Host Site Supervisor Email: CFrey@messiah.edu

The 2013-2014 Messiah College PACC-VISTA will build capacity within the Harrisburg School district to plan and design service-learning experiences that improve the academic achievement of at-risk K-12 students with a focus on the Downey Elementary School. The PACC-VISTA will leverage an established and institutionalized service-learning program at Messiah College as well as a growing network of local community partners to empower the local community to marshal their resources and respond to urgent student achievement issues related to poverty and academic achievement.

Institution Name: Millersville University
Program Name in AmeriCorps: Millersville University - PACC
Host Site Supervisor Name: Melissa Wardwell
Host Site Supervisor Email: melissa.wardwell@millersville.edu

The 2013-2014 PACC*VISTA will work with existing and new community partners on a project to increase the academic success of at-risk K-12 students by enhancing wrap-around services. The PACC*VISTA will build the capacity of community partners to serve at-risk K-12 students by recruiting, training and managing Millersville University student volunteers to serve as mentors, tutors and music instructors. The PACC*VISTA will work with Scaling Walls a Note at a Time (SWAN), an organization which provides music lessons and performance opportunities to children of incarcerated parents, by recruiting music education majors to serve as instructors and mentors. The PACC*VISTA will help SWAN develop an evaluation process and marketing materials to promote awareness and encourage increased involvement from the community. The PACC*VISTA will assist with overall program development, volunteer recruitment, training and sustainability of the project.

Institution Name: Philadelphia University
Program Name in AmeriCorps: Philadelphia University – PACC
Host Site Supervisor Name: Mary Ann Ernesto
Host Site Supervisor Email: ernestom@philau.edu

The AmeriCorps *VISTA will be responsible for the continued development of improved co-curricular & after school programs, working with partner sites as well as the Advisory Council to identify “issues to impact” areas to be served through our Philadelphia University Mentoring Program (P.U.M.P.-up). The goal will be to increase academic achievement for at-risk K-12 students. P.U.M.P.-up is a two-fold program; the first component is to enhance our relationships with local agencies to create specific programs to meet their needs. This is currently being met in our first year of our program & the



second component is to continue to assist the university's office of community service in the placement of community service work study students & other volunteer opportunities with P.U.M.P.-up. The AmeriCorps *VISTA member will help with ongoing project development, project assessment, implementation & recruitment of volunteers.

Institution Name: University of Pittsburgh – Education
Program Name in AmeriCorps: University of Pittsburgh – Education – PACC
Host Site Supervisor Name: Tracy M. Soska or Lila de Klaver
Host Site Supervisor Email: tssw@pitt.edu or ldklaver@pitt.edu

The primary focus of this PACC*VISTA will be on recruiting and placing college students as tutors and mentors for K-12 students in underperforming Pittsburgh Public Schools, primarily in two distressed neighborhoods – Homewood and Hill District, as well as at after-school sites in these and the Hazelwood neighborhood.. The project seeks to increase tutoring and mentoring support that helps enhance K-12 educational performance. Through a campus-community partnership with the Collegiate YMCA, the VISTA will work on recruitment, screening and training of volunteers, as well as maintain school and community bases in schools and full-service YMCA centers in those neighborhoods. The VISTA will also work with community and school partners to ensure adequate and appropriate volunteer-student tutor/mentor match and work with school and community partners to monitor and address volunteer issues that may arise. This will include. The VISTA will also work with the Collegiate YMCA and other collaborative partners and to ensure volunteers attend to academic and school performance objectives and assessment activities that will support project outcome measures as well.

Institution Name: Westminster College
Program Name in AmeriCorps: Westminster College - PACC
Host Site Supervisor Name: Patrick D. Krantz
Host Site Supervisor Email: krantzpd@westminster.edu

Westminster College's 2013-14 PACC*VISTA will work to improve academic achievement of middle school students through the continued development of a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program. The VISTA will work within a well-established program (year 3 of 3) to identify, recruit, and provide training to Westminster College students for the continued implementation, expansion, and sustainability of a Lego® robotics program - *Transformers*. The goal of the program is to work with at-risk youth to develop positive attitudes toward the STEM disciplines and 21st Century Skills. The approach emphasizes multi-disciplinary content, developing an aptitude for critical thinking, observation, and proficiency in technology areas.

2013-2014 PACC*VISTA EDUCATION: College Access Projects

Institution Name: Bryn Mawr College
Program Name in AmeriCorps: Bryn Mawr College - PACC
Host Site Supervisor Name: Kelly Sheard
Host Site Supervisor Email: ksheard@brynmawr.edu

To address the academic and college focused needs of the vulnerable youth of Norristown, Bryn Mawr College and ACLAMO are proposing to pilot ADELANTE, a college-access program for Spanish speaking Norristown youth in grades 7 & 8. ADELANTE builds upon ACLAMO's mission to support students throughout all phases of their educational careers. Through college preparatory based workshops and activities, college student panels and other campus connections, students enrolled in the program will begin to understand and conceptualize a viable pathway to college. For the -13-'14 school year, ADELANTE will serve up to 20 Spanish speaking Norristown youth in grades 7& 8. Students will engage in tutoring and homework help through regular programming, and will be exposed to college preparatory work through ADELANTE enrichment workshops. Students will benefit from themed workshops, college exploration sessions with outside presenters and on and off site exploration activities. The program team, including Bryn Mawr College volunteers, will also work to strengthen parent involvement, focusing on how parents can help support dedication to learning, continued academic achievement and commitment to post-secondary education and training as an achievable student and family goals.

Institution Name: College Access Center of Delaware County/Swarthmore College

Program Name in AmeriCorps: College Access Center of Delaware County/Swarthmore College - PACC

Host Site Supervisor Name: Julani Ghana

Host Site Supervisor Email: julanicacdc@gmail.com

The 2013-14 College Access Center of Delaware County/Swarthmore College PACC*Vista will continue the work to improve the educational outcomes for underserved students of Delaware County by increasing access to postsecondary education. The CACDC will use the Vista Grant initiative to expand the Year 1 project involving the Vista member's (referred to as the Capacity Building Coordinator or CBC) work on upgrading performance ability of the Center's college access and preparation services, with a particular focus on the Road Map to College Program. The CBC will lead the Center's effort to review, analyze, and evaluate all CACDC initiatives with the intention of increasing the likelihood of future ongoing and sustainable relationships with its major institutional and community partners.

Institution Name: Lock Haven University

Program Name on AmeriCorps: Lock Haven University - PACC

Host Site Supervisor Name: Lauren Wright Director of Community Service Office

Host Site Supervisor Email: law3363@lhup.edu

The central region of Pennsylvania would benefit from the resource of a PACC* VISTA to combat poverty through creating self-sustaining programs for college access for at risk high school youth and veterans in the region. The PACC*VISTA would help strengthen the communities of Clinton, Lycoming, and Clearfield Counties over a three year cycle to create and expand services for at risk high school students in the area and regional veterans to obtain their higher education goals . The PACC*VISTA would be a vital member of the community in providing the needed community resource of: bridging high school and college partnerships, creating self-sustaining outreach workshops and target programs, and connecting nonprofit resources and programs to expand support for at risk high school students and veterans to be access higher education.

Marywood University**Program Name in AmeriCorps:** Marywood University - PACC**Host Site Supervisor Name:** Lauren A. Williams**Host Site Supervisor Email:** williams.lauren@marywood.edu

The 2013-2014 Marywood University PACC*VISTA will assist with the development and coordination of an innovative, education-focused initiative to fight poverty. The Remedial Veteran Education and Transition Services program (RVETS) is focused on providing college access to community veterans interested in post-secondary education. The project will provide free remedial education in the areas of Math, English, and Writing to military and veterans in the local community through the use of current and former Marywood University faculty, graduate education students, and teachers from local school districts. In addition to remedial education, transition services will also be provided. RVETS will provide a certificate of satisfactory completion to veterans who successfully complete the program, which can then be submitted to Marywood University upon application for admission. The PACC*VISTA member will play an important role in our effort to build relationships with community veterans interested in post-secondary education.

Institution Name: Northampton Community College- Monroe Campus**Program Name in AmeriCorps:** Northampton Community College – Monroe Campus - PACC**Host Site Supervisor Name:** Cristina Rodriguez**Host Site Supervisor Email:** crodriguez@northampton.edu

The PACC*VISTA will develop and implement a college success program at two high schools (East Stroudsburg HS-South & East Stroudsburg HS-North) in East Stroudsburg Area School District (ESASD) in Monroe County, Pennsylvania. The goal of the program is to provide the participating ESASD students with the knowledge, skills and support needed to: a) navigate the college enrollment and financial aid process; b) develop an awareness of college expectations and prepare for college life; c) make well informed decisions regarding their high school curriculum and subsequent college major. With the median wage for workers with no college being close the poverty line, a high school diploma alone is clearly no longer the path out of poverty. A post-secondary education, whether it is a certificate or other industry recognized credential, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's degree, is the best bridge between poor students and good jobs.

Institution Name: Temple University-University Community Collaborative of Philadelphia**Program Name on AmeriCorps:** Temple University (UCCP) – PACC**Host Site Supervisor:** Barbara Ferman**Host Site Email:** bferman@temple.edu

The University Community Collaborative (the Collaborative) seeks to increase college access for high school students through deepening its partnerships with select high schools in Philadelphia. These partnerships will be centered around leadership development, networking and college awareness for high school students. The primary mechanism will be student governments or councils. Currently, we



are partnered with Picket and Gratz High Schools, both of which are run by Mastery Charter Schools. We may add a third high school for the upcoming academic year. As the College Access Coordinator, the PACC*VISTA will work directly with the student governments and the school liaisons serving at least 45 students. This project grows out of and builds on our 11+ years of working with older youth, our work with the Philadelphia School District around ILPs (Individualized Learning Plans), and our work as an Anchor organization for the Mayor's Graduation Coaches campaign. The PACC VISTA will be fully integrated into the Collaborative's Team, a group of very energetic, dynamic and creative staff dedicated to the empowerment and achievement of all high school students.

Institution Name: University of Pennsylvania

Program Name on AmeriCorps: University of Pennsylvania – PACC

Host Site Supervisor Name: Richard Liuzzi

Host Site Supervisor Email: rjliuzzi@sas.upenn.edu

Since 1985, a collaboration between the University of Pennsylvania, led by the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, and West Philadelphia school and community partners, has transformed existing West Philadelphia public schools into University-Assisted Community Schools. Seven University-Assisted Community Schools currently function as centers of education, services, engagement, and activity for over 5,000 students, parents, and community members in West Philadelphia. Over time, College Access has become a major component of our work with these local public schools. Both the Netter Center and Penn as a whole have developed numerous efforts to increase college-going rates among high-school graduates. For example, there are several students groups that provide support for SAT prep, FAFSA completion, college days at the high schools, and academic tutoring. There are many faculty and staff members at Penn who are experts in key components of this work, such as working with parents on college literacy, financial aid, working with counselors and teachers on writing effective college recommendations, identifying a handful of institutions that meet the needs and interests of various types of applicants, etc. Many students, faculty, staff members, and student groups are interested in joining these efforts. The VISTA's Year 3 activities will enable the Netter Center to effectively grow and sustain efforts to coordinate existing and recruit new volunteer and service resources residing in all corners of the University, and thus establish a comprehensive set of supports for college access programming across West Philadelphia partner schools. In addition to working with various student and staff volunteer efforts, the VISTA member will also interface with college access-oriented service-learning (academically-based community service) courses. This connection to the core teaching, learning, and research mission of the University is a critical component of sustaining the intended high level of coordination and service delivery beyond the grant period.

2013-2014 PACC*VISTA HEALTHY FUTURES: Food Access Projects

Institution Name: Bucknell University

Program Name in AmeriCorps: Bucknell University - PACC

Host Site Supervisor Name: Stacey Sommerfield

Host Site Supervisor Email: sns004@bucknell.edu



The PACC-VISTA Food Access Coordinator at Bucknell University will have three primary objectives. 1) To maintain the Lewisburg Community Garden. The Garden is a partnership between the community of Lewisburg and Bucknell University. It offers individual plots as well as a community area from which produce will be donated to local hot meal programs. 2) To boost the nutritional quality of the Community Harvest hot meal program. This weekly hot meal program in Milton serves between 100-150 low-income community members each week. The Food Access Coordinator will develop menu plans that increase the nutrition of the meals and appeal to the patrons taste. 3) To provide assistance to local food access programs and help them build capacity through the use of student volunteers and innovative programming. Responsibilities would include working with students and community to develop evaluation methods for food access programs.

Institution Name: Drexel University
Program Name in AmeriCorps: Drexel University - PACC
Host Site Supervisor Name: Brianne Tangney
Host Site Supervisor Email: bmt42@drexel.edu

The 2013-2014 Drexel University PACC*VISTA will work to strengthen food access and health promotion programs in the low-income Mantua and Powelton neighborhoods that are contiguous with the Drexel University campus in Philadelphia. Based at Drexel's Lindy Center for Civic Engagement, this position will be an important part of Drexel's effort to build its capacity as a partner in local food access programming and connect University resources with neighborhood-based projects that address food and health disparities. The VISTA will be supervised by the Lindy Center staff, but work very closely with the West Philadelphia Fresh Food Hub, Urban Tree Connection, and the Enterprise Center. Primary duties will be marketing and raising awareness about the Fresh Food Hub among both the Drexel and Mantua/Powelton Village communities, overseeing the collection of survey data related to food access, fresh food consumption and health, and developing educational programming for both Drexel students and the surrounding community.

Institution Name: Gettysburg College
Program Name in AmeriCorps: Gettysburg College - PACC
Host Site Supervisor Name: Kim Davidson
Host Site Supervisor Email: kdavidso@gettysburg.edu

The 2013-2014 Gettysburg College PACC*VISTA will work with the Adams County Food Policy Council (ACFPC), a coalition of individuals, organizations, businesses, and government representatives committed to ensuring that there is a healthy, sustainable and affordable food system for Adams County Pennsylvania. The PACC*VISTA member will work to increase low-income access to fresh fruits and vegetables, build and coalesce a diverse constituency stakeholders to increase the capacity of the ACFPC, and support college-community activities focused on food security and local food systems.

Institution Name: Susquehanna University
Program Name in AmeriCorps: Susquehanna University - PACC
Host Site Supervisor Name: Jay Helmer



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Host Site Supervisor Email: helmer@susqu.edu

Susquehanna University seeks an energetic, creative leader to serve as the Food Access/Healthy Futures PACC AmeriCorps*VISTA. The AmeriCorps*VISTA work with students, faculty, staff, and community members to develop infrastructure at the Campus Garden and through that strengthen the University's partnership with Have Ministry, a non-religious homeless shelter. In addition, The VISTA will have significant opportunities to help shape direction for the garden, and to create nutrition classes and other programs for Haven residents.