



2009-10 VISTA Program

Placement Sites

Concordia University
Lewis & Clark College
Linfield College
Marylhurst University
Oregon State University (2)
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Pacific University

Portland Community College
Portland State University (2)
Southern Oregon University (2)
University of Oregon (2)
University of Portland
Warner Pacific College (2)

Accomplishments

August – December 2009

1,654 community volunteers engaged in service
1,137 students recruited to participate in co-curricular service events
7,359 hours of service facilitated
\$10,635 raised in cash and in-kind resources
731 community partnerships established or expanded. (Annual Goal = 100 partnerships)
13 new poverty-related service-learning courses supported
407 students participating in service-learning courses supported by ORCC VISTAs
105 faculty supported in the development and expansion of service-learning courses. (Annual Goal = 50 faculty)

Stories of Service

Concordia University, Office of Student Leadership

The VISTA Member and the VISTA Supervisor collaborated on a grant application to NIKE to help fund a new program, the Concordia Athlete's Corps. This program will partner with local underserved elementary schools and pair athletes from the college with elementary school students for mentoring through sports activities, teaching sportsmanship and teamwork. Concordia received \$5,000 from NIKE to implement this program.

Linfield College, Career and Community Services

The VISTA serving at Linfield has developed a database system to manage and track information of students that have participated in service programming. This will be used as a recruitment tool to connect with students that have been involved with the Community Services office, as well as to track participation in projects.

Lewis and Clark College, Center for Career and Community Engagement

The VISTA Member serving at Lewis and Clark College conducted 11 faculty interviews with professors to gather input and ideas about how to incorporate civic engagement projects into their curricula. Of the 11 faculty interviewed, five are taking steps to incorporate service-learning into their classes for courses beginning in spring or fall of 2010. Likewise, the VISTA Member is connecting two faculty with two local non-profit organizations to discuss possibilities for upcoming partnerships. This VISTA Member has fostered and maintained six partnerships with community organizations that address poverty through working with underrepresented populations including refugees and immigrants, low-income families, and homeless youth.

Marylhurst University, Center for Experiential Learning and Assessment

The VISTA Member at Marylhurst University is collaborating with her supervisor to bring together campus and community stakeholders to develop a long-term plan for service-learning and civic engagement at the institution. The VISTA is hosting educational forums, brainstorming through focus groups, and coordinating committees to organize service projects and identify the philosophy of service at Marylhurst. The findings and decisions of these groups will be presented at the end of January to the Marylhurst Service Committee and help develop the framework for service programming at the university.

Oregon State University, CASA Latina/o and College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)

The VISTA Member serving with CASA Latino/a and the College Assistance Migrant Program at OSU took the lead in organizing Si Se Puede that brings the OSU offices, students, and staff to underserved Latino communities and provides information in both Spanish and English about the university and college access, including how to apply for admission and scholarships. This year, Si Se Puede hosted the event in Woodburn and Forest Grove, OR, communities with a significant, low-income Latino population.

Oregon State University, Community Service Center

The VISTA serving in the Community Service Center at OSU has worked on the launch of the CSC website, created a template for pitching community service opportunities in classrooms, developed a Memorandum of Understanding for use with community partners, and created a service event evaluation form. In addition, the VISTA Member planned and implemented a training for the student workers of the Community Service Center. The training was very successful in that it provided a foundation for healthy communication to encourage students to share their knowledge and expertise and be more effective in their outreach efforts. The students now have a better understanding of what service is and why people engage in it, the Community Service Center's audience, and a shared vision for the Center. "We now have a more common language in which to talk with each other and to be more consistent with community partners. Collectively, having all of these things will help us stay on track with our goals for the year and beyond. I feel that the way I designed the training will later allow the Center staff to better understand the core concepts of service-learning and that this will become a more integral part of the Community Service Center's operations."

Pacific Northwest College of Art

The VISTA at PNCA has been building strong relationships with students and community partners in an effort to build a culture of service relevant for a small art college, and to better understand what type of service-learning opportunities will best meet the needs of the campus and community. The VISTA placed at PNCA stated, "I'm learning what makes artistic students 'tick' and what types of

projects they might be passionate about. It's challenging at times, but I think eventually it will result in a holistic and unique form of service-learning that will fit this community."

Pacific University, Center for Civic Engagement

In partnership with student leaders, The VISTA Member launched the Food Rescue Team, whose mission is to gather leftover food from university events, the school's Permaculture Farm, and the local farmer's market. The food is then donated to local hunger relief agencies. What began as a spontaneous response to waste and community need, is now becoming a formalized program of sustainability and food donation. The VISTA member has researched the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act, which makes it possible for Pacific University to donate prepared food. The Member is creating a tracking system for the Food Rescue Program in order to record donations and estimate value. Likewise, she's working with a university lawyer to make food donation a recognized and supported activity as well as working with dining services and catering to create a better system for donation, including changing the catering service order form to include a check box stating that the left-over food may be donated. During this reporting period, the value of donated food is \$1,934.

Portland Community College, Service Learning Program

"For the PCC Service-Learning Program's first event, Step Up & Serve, we had to get many people involved to get the results we wanted. I worked with three different service sites to host PCC volunteers on that day. We also got in touch with the PCC Cascade Campus President to come and recognize the volunteers at lunch. Pizza was provided by the President's office and t-shirts were donated by local vendor Evol Twin Printing. I did my best to talk about the event to as many people as possible and to utilize different methods of communication (including the PCC Facebook page, Twitter account, and Step Up & Serve website). Overall, it was a successful event. The volunteers had a great experience and the organizations (The ReBuilding Center, Portland Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and Community Energy Project) received 120 hours of donated labor. Almost all the participants have since registered for our next service event!"

Portland State University, Center for Academic Excellence

Through the EDG:E program, the ORCC VISTA Member partners with the Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) program to place Portland State University (PSU) students at 10 different Portland Public Schools with high percentages of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, minority populations, and English language learners. The VISTA Member recruits, trains, and mentors these PSU students, through the Student Leaders for Service program, throughout the academic year. These PSU students are assigned a SUN school site and run afterschool programming that encourages students to stay in school and get involved in their communities. This cascading mentoring model program is designed to engage PSU students in underserved communities, as well as provide underserved elementary and high school students college-aged mentors and role models. In this reporting period, the VISTA Member worked with PSU students to partner with Kids on the Block, a local non-profit that will facilitate anti-bullying workshops for EDG:E youth. The youth participating in the workshop will then present the information for the entire afterschool program at Kelly Elementary, reaching between 175-200 students.

Portland State University, Educational Equity Program (Diversity and Multicultural Student Services)

The VISTA Member serving with the Educational Equity Program serves with the Diversity Scholarship Program and works with students from underserved populations, predominantly first-generation, low-income, and minority students. Each of the students is required to participate in service as a part of the scholarship agreement and the VISTA Member facilitates partnerships with

community organizations, many of whom address community poverty challenges, in order to help students meet their service requirement. Through December 2009, the VISTA performed outreach to 58 organizations, developed 22 new partnerships, and supported 45 existing partnerships.

Southern Oregon University, Student Activities and Leadership

The VISTA serving as the Civic Engagement and Leadership Coordinator has created a civic engagement flyer to provide information about civic engagement opportunities and how students can get involved. Likewise, she's compiled a list of tips for SOU's next Oxfam hunger banquet, which she helped organize. In addition, the VISTA Member is researching volunteer management software that would allow Students Activities and Leadership to better manage and formalize the process for tracking partnerships, volunteer opportunities, and student involvement.

Southern Oregon University, Student Success Initiative Program

The Student Success Specialist VISTA has created a comprehensive community-campus resource guide for use by students in need of services as well as students, staff, and faculty looking for service opportunities.

University of Oregon, Holden Leadership Center

One of the VISTA Members serving at the University of Oregon organized a volunteer fair attended by 36 community organizations and approximately 100 students. The VISTA Member compiled a list of partner agencies and organizations that U of O students have volunteered with in the past and conducted an outreach campaign to solicit community organization attendance. The non-profit organizations tabled in the Student Union on campus and provided information to students about volunteer opportunities in the local community. After the fair, the VISTA developed an evaluation and included her suggestions for the next fair (see attachment).

The second VISTA Member serving at the University of Oregon partnered with Lane Community College to organize a variety of Make a Difference Day service opportunities. This is the first time that the U of O has participated in formal Make a Difference Day activities and 85 students, faculty, and staff volunteered over 285 hour at 10 different projects, including a Habitat for Humanity build site and Food for Lane County's Grass Roots Garden.

University of Portland, Moreau Center for Service

The VISTA placed at the University of Portland has created an environmental service-learning program. As part of this program, in October, students participated in an immersion program focusing on hunger and access to healthy food for low-income residents of Portland. Students served with five different community organizations addressing food security to collect, package, and distribute food, plant gardens for low-income families, and worked on immigrant family farm plots. Students had the opportunity to hear from experts at each site about hunger and access to food for Portland residents.

Warner Pacific College, Campus Ministries

One of the VISTA Members placed at Warner Pacific College has participated in conversations with the President of the college, as well as other campus stakeholders to craft a proposal to fund a Center for Service Learning at Warner Pacific; this center would centralize the administration of service-learning and civic engagement on campus. The first draft was written and the proposal was submitted to the college President and the Executive Cabinet for approval. Once approved, the VISTA will begin pursuing financial opportunities to fund the new center. In addition, this VISTA has

created a student resource handbook so that students can access information regarding service opportunities and organizations with Warner Pacific partners.

The second VISTA Member serving at Warner Pacific is working closely with The Pioneer School that serves Portland's special-education students, kindergarten to 21 years old, who are unable to be successful in less restrictive school placements. With four school sites and a year-round calendar, the program helps students with social/emotional needs, fragile mental health, developmental disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder, life skills, or GED preparation needs or who require vocational training and community transition services. The ORCC VISTA Member serves as a liaison between Warner Pacific students and staff, and the Pioneer School and is working to build a strong partnership and engage the Warner Pacific community in supporting and enhancing the work of the Pioneer School. The VISTA Member has organized several service events benefiting the school, requested and collected donations to support these projects and supply Pioneer School with much needed resources, as well as worked with school personnel to formalize a plan for future engagement.