Americorps VISTA opportunity at Smith College  
Jandon Center for Community Engagement, 2018-2019

The Jandon Center for Community Engagement at Smith College engages faculty, students and community partners on social-change projects that tackle community-driven goals. The Center works toward advancing social equity and supporting healthy communities through several different community projects, including the STEM Outreach program, the Urban Education Initiative, and a variety of community service projects. The Jandon Center will host one Campus Compact for Southern New England VISTA (CCSNE VISTA) position this year beginning in August of 2018 and extending for one year.

STEM Outreach VISTA

The CCSNE VISTA member will work with the Smith College STEM Outreach Coordinator, McMahon School (Holyoke) teachers, administrators, parents, and community organizations to build an innovative STEM delivery model with the project’s goals in mind. Notably, the AmeriCorps*VISTA will connect with, and assist, mentoring program(s), support groups, and student organizations supporting first-generation and underrepresented groups in STEM.

About Campus Compact of Southern New England (CCSNE) and AmeriCorps VISTA:  
Campus Compact for Southern New England (CCSNE) is a coalition of college and universities in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island dedicated to advancing the public purpose of higher education. CCSNE VISTA members serve in a corps of 54 placed on campus host sites in the tri-state region to build the capacity of campuses and their school and community-based partners to improve educational outcomes for youth and students living in poverty. CCSNE VISTA members focus their service year on education programs aligned with the Corporation for National Service education priorities in school readiness, K-12 school success and college access and success. The scope of these efforts range from the program level, to the organizational level to multi-sector partnerships working on collective impact. As a corps of 54, CCSNE VISTA members benefit from shared training and professional development and collaborate both regionally and by issue area throughout the service year. In addition to their host site supervisor CCSNE VISTA members are supported by three program staff and four VISTA leaders based at the regional network office in Boston. Please visit the CCSNE website for more information www.ccsne.compact.org. Learn more about Americorps VISTA at www.nationalservice.gov/vista.

Job Description: CCSNE AmeriCorps*VISTA – Smith College- McMahon School, Holyoke, MA
We seek an organized, energetic person to work with the McMahon School teachers, administrators and the community to help build a program to improve interest in STEM and over time, performance in STEM. The spring of 2017 MCAS assessment shows that only 7% of 8th graders were “proficient” or above in Science and Technology/engineering compared to a state average of 40%. The VISTA member will lead an initiative that will work with the McMahon community and Smith College to assess needs, constraints and community/school resources and work to develop a strategy to improve interest and performance in STEM. We intend to utilize, whenever
possible, the concept of culturally or socially relevant science education as a mechanism to better engage students in STEM.

MEMBER DUTIES: The AmeriCorps*VISTA member will work with the Smith College Science Outreach Coordinator, McMahon School (Holyoke) teachers, administrators, parents and community organizations to build an innovative STEM delivery model that aims to improve both interest and performance in STEM. The VISTA member will work closely with the on-site ELL instructors, science teachers, and others at the school to devise resources and activities to support the development, testing and implementation of an engaging STEM program. The intent is to closely assess any test or pilot programs developed as well as assist with the full implementation. If and when any staff development is proposed the VISTA member will consult with the Principal and Director of Professional Learning and Educational Leadership.

QUALIFICATIONS: Demonstrated interest and/or personal commitment to education and community development, and educational concerns in struggling communities. This position will require strong listening and communication skills, both written and spoken. We will look for this person to know and understand data collection and be a good organizer. A bachelor's degree is required. Background in education, urban and public affairs, social work, public policy, social sciences or related fields will be helpful. U.S. citizenship is required. Fluency in Spanish would be very helpful. Experience living or working within a bilingual, urban community strongly preferred.

PROGRAM BENEFITS: Benefits of AmeriCorps VISTA Service:

- Bi-weekly living allowance (stipend) of $509.88
- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award ($5,920) or post-service stipend ($1,800) upon successful completion of the program
- Student loan forbearance or deferment (depending on lender)
- Relocation assistance (for candidates moving more than 50 miles to serve)
- Healthcare benefits
- 10 days of personal leave and 10 days of sick leave
- Access to professional development opportunities
- One year of noncompetitive eligibility for federal government positions
- Child care assistance

START AND END DATE OF SERVICE: The position is anticipated to begin on August 20, 2018 and extend for one year until August 20, 2019. Start date is determined once
an applicant is accepted and placed into pre-service orientation.

TO APPLY send cover letter, resume and three references to:

Denys Candy, Director, Smith College, Jandon Center for Community Engagement, (dcandy@smith.edu), Tom Gralinski, STEM Outreach Coordinator (tgralins@smith.edu) and to Kiana Lane, CCSNE VISTA Leader (ccsnevista@compact.org)

Please note applicants will also need to apply to become an AmeriCorps VISTA member at my.americorps.gov by creating an application and submit your application to “Campus Compact for Southern New England”

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until June 8, 2018.