

Tennessee State Office of CNCS

Nashville, TN

May 6, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to convey the support of the Tennessee Campus Compact Advisory Committee for the renewal of the TNCC VISTA Grant. As chair of the Compact advisory board I can assure you that all the member campuses are committed to the work of the VISTA program and CNCS.

This Compact is just a year old and has already seen the value and benefit of our partnership with VISTA. Many campuses have made great strides in their campus-community partnerships and service-learning initiatives because of the commitment and leadership of the VISTA volunteers who have served. My own campus, East Tennessee State University, has benefited greatly from such service through our campus-community partnership in migrant education. Our VISTA volunteers have helped this program become more visible and broadened the partnership to include more academic programs. This year we have seen many more students register for service with this program due to the VISTA volunteers.

TNCC has many goals to achieve to provide necessary resources to our members. We have many campuses that are just beginning a formal initiative in civic engagement and service-learning. This compact seeks to develop materials and documents to assist campuses and their student and faculty in implementation. There is much training to be done. Training and other resources need to be developed for on-line distribution. The compact needs to begin data collection and a research agenda. Partnerships with K-12 and many community organizations are in need of development. Yes, we have an outstanding leader in our executive director, Mani Hull. She is still, just one person. The campuses have very limited resources for additional staff to execute on their campus strategies. The VISTA program will be a much needed and appreciated resource to help TNCC and its member campuses execute strategies and achieve goals.

We appreciate the past support of CNCS and the VISTA program and look forward to continuing the partnership with TNCC.

Sincerely,

Deborah K. Harley

Chair, Advisory Committee

Tennessee Campus Compact