

May 7, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the Tennessee Campus Compact (TNCC) VISTA Project. As a member institution of the TNCC, and as a representative of the new host campus of the Compact, Lipscomb University, I fully endorse this effort between the TNCC and the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

One of the most significant ways that higher education engages with and serves low income communities in Tennessee is through service-learning and civic engagement programs. These service-learning and civic engagement programs leverage the information, resources and support systems available on college and university campuses and put these resources to use in partnership with community serving agencies.

In this way, these civic engagement efforts bring the talents and time of students, and the knowledge and expertise of faculty, to the community. These partnerships with nonprofit and community serving organizations build the capacity of community agencies to provide improved services to those most in need.

The TNCC has a proven track record with AmeriCorps partnerships, and the Compact continues to grow and strengthen. I firmly believe that this VISTA project is one of the best ways to leverage federal resources to impact the underserved and low income population in Tennessee.

Please accept this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Christin Shatzer
Director of Service-Learning
The SALT Program
Lipscomb University