

Dr. Mani Hull
Executive Director
Tennessee Campus Compact
Lipscomb University
One University Park Drive
Nashville, TN 37204-3951

Dr. Hull:

I am delighted to present this letter in support of the Tennessee Campus Compact, the Corporation for National and Community Service and the use of Service Learning as an effective and productive teaching/learning pedagogy.

As Director of the Office of Career Placement, Cooperative Education and Service Learning at Volunteer State Community College, I can attest to the mission and vision of Service Learning on our campus and its positive impact on our students. Service Learning became an institutional initiative in March 2008 and was supported by the College's membership in the Tennessee Campus Compact. Community service and civic engagement has significantly increased and the use of Service Learning as an embedded component in our curriculum (as described in course titles, course descriptions, course syllabi and learning outcomes) has yielded many positive results that demonstrate increased academic engagement, a greater connection with community, movement toward reduction in achievement gaps and helping the College address student retention issues.

A guiding research document entitled, "**At A Glance: What We Know About The Effects of Service Learning on College Students 1993-2006: Fourth Edition**", prepared by Janet Eyler, Dwight Giles, Jr., Christine Stenson, and Charlene Gray of Vanderbilt University represents compelling research data and promotes the use of Service Learning as an effective engagement and academic tool. This evidence-based document definitively demonstrates Service Learning best practices and the value of the resources offered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. I firmly believe that the value added benefit from student engagement and support by the Corporation for National and Community Service significantly enhances student learning, experiential education and has positive impact on student academic performance and personal view of themselves as assets to their respective community. Our office has received support since 2009 via the AmeriCorps VISTA program. Without such funding and the strategic assistance provided through this means the College would not have achieved the level of success attained toward the development of a sustainable Service Learning program.

I sincerely trust that you would share my letter of support for continued funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service. The many resources it has provided continue to make a difference in our service area and our students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Respectfully,

Richard B. Parrent

Richard B. Parrent, Ed.D.