

Jerry R. Herman, Ed.D.
Director
Corporation for National and Community Service
Tennessee State Office
233 Cumberland Bend Drive, Suite 112
Nashville, TN 37228
June 1, 2011

Dear Dr. Herman:

I am delighted to present you with this letter of support for the Tennessee Campus Compact's request for renewal of a VISTA grant. Representing Volunteer State Community College as a member of the state wide Tennessee Campus Compact Advisory Board and the TNCC Executive Board, I have enjoyed partnering with the Corporation for National and Community Service as an on-site Director for the last two years utilizing AmeriCorps VISTA resources. Additionally, this summer our College is grateful for the use of a Summer Associate VISTA as we continue to develop capacity toward a long term, sustainable service learning program. Without this support, the College would not have been able to create a culture of service and serve others as rapidly and develop community partnerships that have blossomed and borne fruit.

Volunteer State Community College has been an active leader as a charter member of the Tennessee Campus Compact. The College hosted the TACEP Summer Workshop in 2009, was awarded the 2009 Presidents Higher Education Service Honor Roll finalist designation, hosted a Tennessee Campus Compact statewide Advisory Board meeting in 2010, and our staff and faculty have participated in numerous training experiences sponsored via the Tennessee Campus Compact. Among the many resources provided through the TNCC relationship, perhaps one of the most tangible has been our ability to obtain AmeriCorps VISTA support. With VISTA engagement, the College has been actively involved in developing meaningful community partnerships that have led to reduce poverty, enhance academic attainment of those coming from impoverished areas, promote global citizenship, generate and deliver community and workforce development programming, provide environmentally safe and healthy lifestyles for our students and members of our service area, and have created a curriculum and assessment tools to collect data associated with academic progression and student retention.

The role of the Tennessee Campus Compact and the use of the VISTA grant have significantly increased our College's ability to grow and sustain a viable and meaningful service learning program. I strongly encourage the full support for renewal of the VISTA grant as it buttresses the TNCC and our great state. Thank you again for your support of Volunteer State Community College through the AmeriCorps VISTA program and other resources of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

In deep appreciation,

Richard B. Parrent

Richard B. Parrent, Ed.D.
Director, Office of Career Placement, Cooperative Education and Service Learning
Volunteer State Community College