



WACC AmeriCorps VISTA Position Description

Host Site Name: Heritage University /Dispute Resolution Center

Department: Criminal Justice

Position Title: Coordinator of Mediation and the Community Communication Program

Project Title: Increasing Educational and Economic Opportunity through Building Community Trust in the Yakima Valley

Project Supervisor: Kim Bellamy-Thompson (HU)
Sarah Augustine (DRC)

Position Summary:

The Mediation and Community Communication Program Coordinator will work with the Dispute Resolution Center and Heritage University faculty and community partners to develop mediation curriculum for the criminal justice department; envision and pilot a student internship program; envision, pilot and coordinate a student peer-mediation program at Heritage University; and work with faculty and community partners to envision, develop and coordinate a community communication program that will cross-train students, community leaders, local elected officials, and local police in several cities across Yakima County. During the implementation phase, the VISTA member will develop a marketing plan, and recruit and coordinate participation of local officials, police departments, and low-income, minority community members. The VISTA member will develop network mechanisms that will ultimately result in a memorandum of understanding between participant organizations. These programs will increase the overall health and security of the community by providing low-income and marginalized community members with the skills and knowledge necessary to empower them to pursue paths out of poverty through higher education and improved career opportunities.

Major responsibilities and activities:

- Obtain mediation training and certification in order to have knowledge necessary to expand access to mediation activities at the DRC
- Research and prepare written summary of mediation curriculum materials
- Plan, write revise and evaluate mediation curriculum with DRC director and criminal justice chair for Heritage University
- Work with criminal justice chair to develop student internship program focused on mediation
- Coordinate and manage student volunteers
- Reflect and evaluate internship program together with criminal justice chair
- Work with community partners, DRC director, and criminal justice chair to develop community communication training for local officials, community members and students
- Manage the logistical tasks of recruiting participants to trainings
- Participate as a co-trainer with DRC staff
- Participate in program evaluation with DRC Director

Term of service: 365 days, averaging 40 hrs /week

Location: Yakima, WA and Toppenish, WA

Qualifications:

- Bilingual Spanish/English
- Associate or Bachelor's Degree
- At least 18 years of age, U.S. citizen, U.S. national, lawful permanent resident, or person residing legally in Washington State
- Ability to make a full-year commitment

- Interest and/or experience in community service and/or community development
- Effective oral and written communication skills with diverse populations, including multicultural experience and cross-cultural communication skills
- Proficient in Google platform, MS Office, Adobe products, social media, and database management
- Ability to organize, prioritize and perform multiple work assignments
- Ability to work evenings and weekends as necessary
- Ability to pass criminal background check

AmeriCorps VISTA benefits:

- Bi-weekly living allowance
- Relocation and settling-in allowance, if moving more than 50 miles to serve
- Post-service \$5,815 Education Award or \$1,500 end-of-term cash award
- One year of non-competitive eligibility (NCE) for federal government jobs
- Basic health coverage, student loan forbearance, and basic child care assistance when applicable
- Paid round-trip ticket to pre-service orientation and reimbursed travel expenses when applicable
- Extensive training, professional development, and networking opportunities
- Access to AmeriCorps network

Site specific benefits:

Mediation training that culminates in certification, extensive experience training others, expert mentorship from the program chair and the DRC Director, lived experience on the Yakama reservation, relationship with migrant communities, training and participate in grass-roots outreach/organizing, and extensive leadership training and experience working with elected officials and police.

Equal Opportunity and Non-discrimination

Western Washington University/Washington Campus Compact and sub-granted campus programs, in compliance with applicable laws and in furtherance of its commitment to fostering an environment that welcomes and embraces equal opportunity, diversity and inclusiveness, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and parenting status), age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, and veteran status in its programs or activities, including employment, admissions, and educational programs. See Western's [Policy on Ensuring Equal Opportunity and Prohibiting Discrimination and Retaliation](http://www.wvu.edu/policies/policy1000.shtml) (POL-U1600.02): <http://www.wvu.edu/policies/policy1000.shtml>

As such, the subcontracted campus programs agree not to discriminate against any client, student, employee, or applicant for employment or services in administering personnel actions such as employment, promotion, demotion, transfer, recruitment, lay off, termination, compensation and training opportunities, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and parenting status), age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, and veteran status.