

Executive Director's Message

Jennifer Dorr, Executive Director

I'm pleased to welcome three new staff to manage the Retention Project, an AmeriCorps program, and the WACC VISTA Project. AmeriCorps and VISTA are both programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The AmeriCorps members are placed on 13 campuses state-wide to recruit college students to mentor junior and high school students. VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America, aims to eliminate poverty and members will be placed on 12 campuses to strengthen campus-based service-learning initiatives.

Kristi Slette, Washington Campus Compact's Director of Training, also serves as an instructor for WWU's Human Services and Rehabilitation Department; teaches community education programs, facilitates strategic planning and cooperatively designs organizational and volunteer management systems for human services and volunteer-based organizations. Kristi earned her Master's of Education degree from Western Washington University.

Linnea Broker joined Washington Campus Compact as Interim Manager for the statewide AmeriCorps VISTA program. VISTA members, under her leadership, will help strengthen campus-based service-learning initiatives focused on poverty elimination. Linnea's professional background includes broad experience in the non-profit world. As a Red Cross delegate she has worked internationally with refugees in Europe, Southeast Asia and East Africa. Linnea holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Craig DeForest, a graduate of the University of Maine's Public Administration program, spent a year

of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA for Maine Campus Compact at the Bodwell Center for Service & Volunteerism, where he developed and implemented a co-curricular service-learning program for UMaine-Orono. As Washington Campus Compact's VISTA Leader, Craig supports WACC VISTAs in their professional and personal development, facilitates communication, collaboration and team-building among the group.

Please join me in welcoming Kristi, Linnea and Craig to Washington Campus Compact!

The Retention Project: Mentoring For College Success

Kristi Slette, Director of Training

- Every youth in Washington can attend and succeed in college!
- Every institution of higher education in Washington State embraces its public purpose through a program engaging college-aged mentors to ready middle and high school students for college success.

That's the vision of Washington Campus Compact and the Retention Project, a collaborative effort of twelve campuses engaging college students as mentors. The program will increase college-readiness—economically and attitudinally—amongst college students and low-income Washington state youth.

The Retention Project supports the goal to create a college-bound culture within communities, especially those educationally isolated. Economic status is the number one barrier to accessing higher education. The demands of higher education—navigating unfamiliar situations and expectations impact the ability of many students to complete their education.

According to the Washington Statewide College Access Network's Executive Summary, "Washington's college-going rate of 48% for high school graduates immediately starting college is lower than the national rate of 61.6%. For 18-24 year-olds, 29.2% are enrolled in college in Washington compared to 33.9% nationwide. Ninth-graders have a 33% chance of going to college by age 19 in Washington, but a 41.8% chance of going nationwide."

To address Washington's access and readiness gap, WACC has placed twenty-one AmeriCorps volunteers in Washington communities with support from the Washington State Commission for National and Community Service. The AmeriCorps members recruit, support, and train over 1,000 college students as mentors to help disadvantaged youth and educationally isolated students succeed in higher education.

With financial and resource support from College Spark Washington, the KnowHow2GO Campaign, and Washington's Higher Education Coordinating Board, The Retention Project mentors and site supervisors receive training, support, and materials to provide quality mentoring, step-by-step guidance on how to take action toward college access, and financial literacy training.

The campus partners are: Cascadia Community College, Central Washington University, Edmonds Community College, The Evergreen State College, Gonzaga University, Heritage University, Lake Washington Technical College, Spokane Community College, Tacoma Community College, University of Washington, University of Washington—Tacoma, and Western Washington University.

We acknowledge the commitment and dedication of the twenty-one Retention Project AmeriCorps Members and their site supervisor's serving at these campuses to focus on college access and success.

New Database Helps Management of Program

Patrick McGinty, Students in Service Program Director

The Students in Service (SIS) Program is currently in a big transition as the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) recently made a in the change in the member management database from WBRS to the e-grants Portal. This is a major transition because of the size of SIS as we have 2,300 2009-2010 member slots to fill and, as of the transition the program, had 1,600 active members from the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 grant year. The transition began July 27th and was just before the beginning of the 2009-2010 grant year start date of August 1st. While there was an initial steep learning curve as new processes were developed to overcome the challenges presented

by the transition, so far the campus partners have reacted very well to the changes and I am happy to report it appears the transition is going smoothly as our enrollments are well ahead of enrollments from the same period last year. This bodes well that SIS will again have full enrollment for the fourth year in a row.

Our campus partners continue to do a tremendous job administering the program on their campuses as the partnerships with the campus faculty and departments as well as community partnership continue to be strengthened to the benefit of more students learning about the importance of serving their community and the benefit of enrolling in the SIS program. We also see an increase in interest in SIS due to President Barack Obama's call to service, better marketing efforts on participating campuses, and the effects of a troubled economy.

The SIS program continues to grow as colleges in the state of Nevada that are Campus Compact members are now eligible to participate in the SIS program. Last year, SIS added the US territories of Guam, American Samoa, and Saipan with great success and this year we continue of growth pattern in Nevada. So far, Sierra Nevada College and the University of Nevada Las Vegas are participating in SIS for the 09-10 grant year.

Washington Campus Compact Announces Faculty Engagement Survey

Survey is First of its Kind in Western Region

Washington Campus Compact (WACC) has released the findings from a first-of-its-kind survey of higher-education faculty across the Western United States regarding their use of service-learning – engaging students in community service activities with intentional academic goals.

The survey's results show the top three community issues addressed through the service-learning classes of these faculty are education/literacy, cultural awareness, and the environment.

Participating in the survey were Campus Compact offices from throughout the Western Region, including the California, Colorado, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, Oregon, Utah, and Washington offices.

At Western Washington University, 96 percent of faculty that incorporate service-learning into their courses intend to keep using it in their teaching; they also experienced an expanded community awareness, improved community relationships, and increased community responsibility by using service-learning to address community relations. The Evergreen State College was notable for its use of service learning in teaching of social sciences, cross-cultural and international relations, education and the humanities. At the University of Idaho more than 73 percent of undergraduate students and 50 percent of graduate students participate in a service-learning course. More data from the Western Region is available at the Washington Campus Compact website.

The survey was the first of its kind to collect faculty engagement data across a multi-state region. More than 2,500 faculty members at 47 campuses across California, Colorado, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington were surveyed. The research project was funded by Learn and Serve America Higher Education, a program of the Corporation for National & Community Service and directed by Washington Campus Compact.

“A research effort of this kind hasn’t been done in our region,” said Jennifer Dorr, executive director of Washington Campus Compact, “This research points to the significant impacts that service-learning has on faculty, students, and communities.”

The Faculty Engagement Survey Project collected common data across the Western Region identifying current faculty service-learning and community-based research practices; possible strategies to motivate and support new faculty to do service-learning and/or community-based research; best practices by which to support faculty who already incorporate service-learning and community based research into their work; and the potential impacts of service-learning and community-based research on faculty, students, campuses, and communities. Service-learning engages students in community service activities with intentional academic learning goals and opportunities for critical self-reflection that connect to their academic disciplines. Community-based research involves collaboration between trained researchers and community members in the design and implementation of research projects aimed at meeting community-identified needs.

Participating Campus Compacts will be able to use this data to shape strategic directions and programming as well as learn more about how faculty members are involved in service-learning and community-based research; how to support faculty; and how service-learning impacts faculty, students, and community members.

The research team of RaeLyn Axlund, WACC research and assessment director; Christine Cress, Portland State University associate professor; and Tanya Renner, Kapi'olani Community College professor developed the Faculty Engagement Survey as part of a larger community engagement research effort. Future community engagement surveys are planned to assess college students and community partners.

Established in 1992 and hosted at Western Washington University, Washington Campus Compact and its membership of 35 two- and four-year colleges and universities are committed to providing meaningful experiences for students to become active, engaged leaders in their communities, furthering the civic and public purposes of higher education and strengthening communities. WACC is an affiliate state office of Campus Compact, a national organization comprised of more than 1,100 higher education institutions committed to the civic and public purposes of higher education.

2009-2010 AmeriCorps VISTA Team, Assembled!

Craig DeForest, AmeriCorps*VISTA Leader

Congratulations are in order for the 2009-2010 WACC VISTAs! This is a team of 16 passionate individuals with excellent knowledge and skills selected to fight poverty in Washington communities through service-learning and civic engagement initiatives. Through several conversations and e-mails, I have already been a witness to the talented VISTAs who have joined the team to begin their terms of service at the end of September.

Several have already successfully navigated through their first months of service. Kaelyn Caldwell, a second-year VISTA at Shoreline Community College, has come a long way in developing a meaningful, effective service-learning program since her service began in July 2008. She is currently utilizing a new website to coordinate, mobilize and educate the college and local community about

service-learning opportunities.

New VISTAs will be attending Pre-Service Orientation in Dallas, facilitated by the Corporation for National Service. They will discuss poverty issues and receive training related to their VISTA service, along with the opportunity to network. Several weeks following, WACC will facilitate a training surrounding service-learning and sustainability. The relationships they form at PSO and at the WACC training will be very useful for support, motivation and collaboration!

Finally, Washington Campus Compact has given me a wonderful welcome. As a former Maine Campus Compact VISTA, I am well aware of the great accomplishments of this organization and passionate about its mission. I look forward to working with the 2009-2010 VISTAs and all of you with whom I will cross paths.

Editor's Note: Craig comes to us from the east coast, where he grew up in the state of Maine. A graduate of the University of Maine's Public Administration program, he spent a year of service as a VISTA for Maine Campus Compact at the Bodwell Center for Service & Volunteerism, where he developed and implemented a co-curricular service-learning program for UMaine-Orono. As Washington Campus Compact's VISTA Leader, Craig supports WACC VISTAs in their professional and personal development, facilitates communication, collaboration and team-building among the group, and troubleshoots any bumps they may encounter along the way.

WACC VISTA Team Workshop

Linnea Broker, AmeriCorps VISTA Manager

The name of the retreat center just outside Ellensburg might be "Lazy F", but there was serious work going on when the 2009/10 WACC VISTA members met from October 18-20. Fourteen WACC team members, along with team leader, Craig Deforest and Program Manager, Linnea Broker came together for the two day teambuilding/training workshop. Members travelled from all over Washington State for the year's first WACC VISTA training.

The objective for the workshop was three-fold; to unite together as a team, to learn and practice

capacity building skills and to share knowledge and best practices from experienced team members. There were several working sessions each day; including seminars and discussions on Reporting and Assessment, Understanding Service-Learning, Working with Community Partners, Forming a Collaborative Team and S-L Reflection. Second year team members, Kaelyn Caldwell, Shannon Smith and Elizabeth Love-Sheehan all shared invaluable information and knowledge about their S-L experiences. Hilary Hacker presented her excellent and newly released documentary, "Center for Community Based Learning and Action" to rousing enthusiasm. Her documentary can be viewed on YouTube at: http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=3B23DECCC67F9928&search_query=ccbla

For new members it was a remarkable opportunity to gain valuable insight and skills around service learning and capacity building on their campuses and in their communities.

Though much ground was covered, there was also time for a little recreation and play. Some team members choose a hike to the top of the surrounding ridge and enjoyed a panoramic view of the surrounding valley, vibrant with the colors of fall. Others played a strategic German board game and many rounds of cards, while others found a quiet corner to read. All the while, lively discussions and friendly banter took place.

There is absolutely no doubt about it, this year's WACC VISTA team is spirited, energetic and smart and if "Lazy F" is any indication, it will be anything but idle!

Please welcome this year's new and returning team members:

- Thomas Terrell – Eastern Washington University
- Andrea Robbins – Evergreen State
- Hilary Hacker – Evergreen State
- Kaelyn Caldwell – Shoreline Community College
- Sherrie Dunlap-South Puget Sound
- Eunice Stime -Spokane Falls
- Amanda Petrina – Spokane Falls

- Elizabeth Love-Sheehan – Spokane Falls
- Sean Bulthaupt – Tacoma Community College
- Ben Reese – Tacoma community College
- Beth Parker – Western Washington University
- Leah Congdon – Whatcom Community College

National Campus Compact Launches Annual Member Survey

Campus Compact's Annual Membership Survey is now available online.

Your participation in this national survey is very important. Conducted each year since 1986, the survey is the most comprehensive and widely distributed review of service, service-learning, and civic engagement in higher education.

Through this instrument, we are able to calculate student and faculty involvement, to understand institutional support/culture for this work, to learn about how civic engagement activities are structured on campuses, and to receive valuable feedback about Campus Compact member services.

"The Annual Membership Survey is an excellent opportunity for us to gain a complete snapshot of campus-based civic engagement initiative structures and impacts not only across Washington and Idaho, but also nationally" said RaeLyn Axlund, Washington Campus Compact Research and Assessment Director, "My hope is that every WACC member campus will complete this important survey."

Results allow campuses to compare their progress with state and national trends and help all of us better articulate our case to elected officials, funders, and the media.

The deadline for completion of the survey is December 4, 2009. For best results, we urge you to download the PDF version to review the entire survey and then complete the survey online.

Survey results will be posted on our website in the spring of 2010. You can view last year's results at <http://www.compact.org/about/statistics/>.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Farrell.