

2016-2017 MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA Program

APPLICANT INFORMATION

MACC Member Institution: Middlesex Community College

Contact Person: Dr. James C. Mabry, President

This person must have authority to commit and receive funds on behalf of legal applicant

Address: 33 Kearney Square

City: Lowell State: MA Zip: 01852

Phone: (978) 656-3100 E-Mail: mabryj@middlesex.mass.edu

Primary Community Partner: Lowell Public Schools

Community Partner Contact Name: Martha Cohn

Title: Coordinator of Science and Social Studies, PreK-12, Lowell Public Schools

Address: Lowell Public Schools; Henry J. Mroz Central Administration Offices; Edith Nourse Rogers School; 43 Highland Street

City: Lowell State: MA Zip: 01852

Phone: (978) 674-2115 E-Mail: mcohn@lowell.k12.ma.us

Secondary Community Partner:
(if applicable) _____

Community Partner Contact Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____



Project Year for 2016-17:

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Partnership Education Priority Focus (check all that apply):

School Readiness

K-12 Success

Post Secondary Success

Additional Priority Areas:

Together for Tomorrow

STEM Education

Community Colleges

High Poverty School Partners

Veterans and Military Families

Opportunity Youth and My Brother's Keeper

Preferred Recruitment Method:

Local

MACC

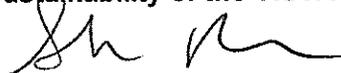


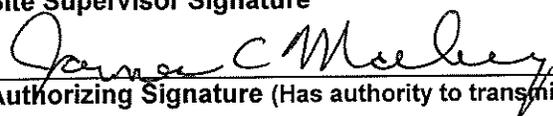
VISTA Host Site Applicant Agreement Form

All Massachusetts Campus Compact*VISTA Host Sites must understand and agree to the following:

- VISTA slot availability is dependent on federal funding. Massachusetts Campus Compact reserves the right to place VISTAs with host sites that best meet overall MACC VISTA project qualifications.
- The VISTA is a full-time volunteer service member with at least an Associate's degree and should be treated as a colleague. Most VISTAs are beginning their professional careers and will require mentoring and professional development.
- VISTA supervisors are required to attend Massachusetts Campus Compact Supervisor training in July 2016, Fall Grantee Meeting, and Mid-Year Grantee Meeting.
- The site supervisor must oversee VISTAs service by: 1) orientating the VISTA to the host site, 2) meeting regularly with the VISTA, 3) completing periodic evaluations of VISTA performance, 4) monitoring VISTA progress toward assignment goals, 5) reviewing VISTA time off tracking and required reports, and 6) ensuring VISTA attendance at required Massachusetts Campus Compact and AmeriCorps events.
- Site supervisors should advocate for the VISTA on campus, define his or her supervising style, set clear expectations and priorities for the VISTA, and be accessible to provide guidance and support.
- The site supervisor or other site staff will facilitate the VISTA's introduction to and work with the community partner. The VISTA will spend time regularly at community partner site and have a designated community partner supervisor.
- The host site must provide reasonable accommodations to qualified VISTAs with disabilities.
- The host site should provide: adequate office space and logistical support (including computer, phone, email, and supplies), a small budget for work-related travel, work time allocation for MA Campus Compact and AmeriCorps events (no more than 20% of VISTA time). Direct cash support to VISTAs is prohibited.
- The VISTA should be identified in organizational directories, websites, publications, business cards, and email communications as a "Massachusetts Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA member."
- If selected to host a MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA, we will remit payment of the Massachusetts Campus Compact VISTA Host Site administrative fee by the designated date.

We, the undersigned, agree to uphold expectations of a Massachusetts Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA Host Site as outlined in this application. We are aware that expectations for the host site, supervisor, and community partners are meant to ensure the success and sustainability of the VISTA's work.

 3/10/16
Site Supervisor Signature Date

 3/16/16
Authorizing Signature (Has authority to transmit funds on behalf of the institution) Date

James C. Meeley
Authorizing Official Name

President
Title:

Office of the President
Department:

Executive Summary

The Middlesex Community College (MCC) 2016-2017 AmeriCorps*VISTA placement focuses on Building Capacity for Education Partnerships. The goal of the partnership is to engage MCC students in service-learning with K-8 Bartlett Community Partnership (BCPS) students to improve BCPS students' academic performance and engagement. BCPS is located in a high-poverty area in the City of Lowell; students underperform on statewide assessments in math and science.

For 2016-2017, in-school and after-school individual and group service-learning projects will focus on three primary areas: 1) Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) programming that approaches science and mathematics as an art form in and of itself 2) Dental hygiene education and preventative care to promote dental health and 3) Arts programming with an emphasis on music and theatre, high needs areas for BCPS. Service-learning activities will include identifying, recruiting, registering, tracking, and supervising service-learning students; assisting in designing service-learning projects (faculty recruitment and curriculum development); and creating systems to track data and assess outcomes.

An increased number of MCC students placements will result in increased numbers of school children served. Improved student skills will support future academic success, aid student retention, promote graduation from high school, and motivate some students to pursue STEM fields of study.

The supervisor at MCC is Shana Berger, Director of Civic and Service-Learning. The supervisors at BCPS is Peter Holtz, Principal and Martha Cohn, Coordinator of Science and Social Studies, PreK-12 Lowell Public Schools.

**Middlesex Community College-Bartlett Community Partnership School/Lowell Public Schools
AmeriCorps* VISTA Partnership –Renewal Position**

A. Need: The overall goal for the MCC VISTA* Service-Learning/LPS Liaison is to engage MCC students in service-learning activities with K-8 Bartlett Community Partnership (BCPS) students to improve the students' academic performance and engagement. In-school and after-school individual and group projects will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) and allied health dental fields. MCC students will serve in ways that meet the needs of the BCPS students as determined by BCPS leadership, teachers and the larger BCPS community.

The need for educational resources and capacity building cannot be overstated. According to the MA DESE 2015 District Report Card, LPS District is classified as Accountability and Assistance Level 3. In 2015-16, there are 14,152 students enrolled in the District, 50.4% of whom are classified as economically disadvantaged (compared to 27.4% in Massachusetts). Using past years' indicator of economically disadvantaged students (free and reduced lunch), 80.6% of LPS students would be classified in this way (43.8% in Massachusetts). Of the 14,152 LPS students, 25% are English Language Learners (almost triple the state-wide percentage of 9%). The LPS Grade 9-12 Dropout Rate is 1.8, lower than the state average of 1.9. The 2015 cohort five-year graduation rate was 78.8%, as compared to 87.3% for the overall state.

The specific school with which MCC is partnering is the Bartlett Community Partnership School (BCPS), a Lowell public school serving a diverse population of 540 students in grades PreK-8. Of the 540 BCPS students, 57.7% are economically disadvantaged reflected in a 92.3% free and reduced lunch rate. Also, 27.3% of BCPS students are designated as Limited English Proficient.

When this partnership began during the 2013-14 school year, BCPS was designated Accountability and Assistance Level 3 by the MA DESE, ranked in the bottom 13th percentile (among the lowest performing) when compared to other K-8 schools in the state. Since then, BCPS climbed to

the 27th percentile in 2014-2015, and then to the 34th percentile for this current, 2015-16 school year. With this upward trend, BCPS was recently designated an Accountability and Assistance Level 1 school. Despite these gains, the work of BCPS is far from done. Additionally, based on students' performance on the statewide MCAS tests for Spring 2015, only 32% of BCPS students scored proficient or higher for math, and only 34% for science, as compared to 54% (math) and 35% (science) for all elementary-middle schools in MA. By eighth grade, 34% of students at BCPS were rated "warning/failing" on Grade 8 MCAS tests for science and technology, as compared to 18% across the state, and 55% of students were rated "needs improvement."

The MCAS scores indicate that Bartlett students would benefit from services and supports that encourage a positive experience with the STEM disciplines. Additionally, in March 2016, an MCC IRB-approved Career Interest Survey was distributed electronically by MCC to BCPS students in grades 5-8 during a computer class; 142 students responded. While many students expressed interest in science (this is discussed more in depth later in the proposal), the results indicated a strong need for access to role models. In response to the statement, "I have a role model in a science career," 44% of respondents answered, "strongly disagree" or "disagree," and an additional 35% responded "neutral." In response to the statement, "I know of someone in my family who uses science in their career," 55% responded "strongly disagree" or "disagree." There is clearly a need for role models, and MCC students, many of whom share the same demographic background as the LPS students, serve an important function as role models in addition to providing academic services.

BCPS is also located in a federally-designated Medically Underserved Area (MUA). Students must be ready to learn from a personal health standpoint. Dental hygiene students will develop and provide educational programming and preventative care for K-8 classes, addressing the importance of healthy dental habits and also providing exposure for the students to role models in allied health dental careers. Recent results of past performance illustrate that our proposed program will be successful. In

Fall 2015, MCC successfully united 434 BCPS students and 118 MCC students in individual and project-based science activities. The partnership involved 17 BCPS classrooms and MCC students from 13 different courses, and reached nearly 80% of all students at the BCPS.

As noted, in March 2016, MCC administered the STEM Career Interest Survey at BCPS. Seventy-seven percent of students responded, “strongly agree” or “agree” in response to the statement, “I will work hard in science classes.” Fifty-six percent of students responded, “strongly agree” or “agree” in response to the statement, “I like my science class.” MCC faculty and student involvement responds directly to the expressed need of students. Research shows that learning in the arts also enhances students’ college success by preparing them to work collaboratively and think critically and creatively, and also strengthens students’ preparation for STEM fields. (See <http://stemtosteam.org/resources/>). At the BCPS, students have limited access to arts education. The Liaison will support MCC faculty and students in bringing developmentally-appropriate arts and STEAM programming to BCPS. MCC will expose students to college student role models and engage students in aspiring to progress in education, reducing their risk of poverty.

B. Partnerships for K-16 Education Success: The AmeriCorps*VISTA placement, referred to as the Liaison, will work to complement and expand current efforts to address K-12 success.

1. Intended capacity building goals and outcomes. The overall goal is to increase capacity building for the partnership facilitating the placement of MCC students in service-learning with children at BCPS; this will include identifying, recruiting, registering, tracking, and supervising service-learning students; assisting in designing service-learning projects (faculty recruitment and curriculum development); and creating systems to track data and assess outcomes. In the past year, the Liaison supported and strengthened STEAM programming that approaches science and mathematics as an art form in and of itself. Such programming helps children design creative and innovative products, from robots to bridges, paintings to sculptures, and become outside of the box thinkers with a positive mindset, ready

to persevere through complicated problems. The Liaison also supported dental programming and initiated arts programming on a small scale. The focus of the 2016-2017 grant will be to continue to support STEAM programming while scaling arts programming with an emphasis on music and theatre, high needs areas for BCPS. In addition, the Bartlett school is creating a maker space to enhance their STEAM program, and MCC service-learners will help lead activities in the maker space during school and during our after school enrichment programs. The maker space will help BCPS students become creative thinkers and help them develop problem solving skills. Finally, to increase the number of students benefitting from dental screening and treatment, permission slips will be sent home to parents at the start of the school year. In the past, permission slips were distributed prior to dental treatment and return rates were lower than expected given the need. This new strategy should increase the numbers of students taking advantage of this much needed service. It is estimated that a minimum of 110 MCC students will provide a minimum of 2,420 service hours at BPS for a minimum of 400 children K-8 beneficiaries. We fully expect to exceed this target. 2. How the MACC

AmeriCorps*VISTA will result in increased capacity. The partnership will increase capacity of the BCPS to meet the educational needs of students. This will have a multiplier effect as improved student skills will support future academic success. Anticipated long-term outcomes include increased student retention, increased academic success, and increased interest in STEM and arts fields of study.

Additionally, students' preventative health practices will be improved. The Liaison's supervisors at MCC and the schools will set goals and establish an overall plan to track the progress of all activities.

3. History of Partnership. In 2013, the LPS Superintendent asked MCC to specifically engage the BCPS. As mentioned earlier, the school is located in a high-poverty area and has had low MCAS scores, particularly in science and math. The history of MCC partnership with LPS spans 25+ years and includes operating a middle school for highly at-risk students with behavioral challenges, dual enrollment collaborations, Talent Search and Upward Bound programs. 4. How and why was partner

selected. BCPS was selected based on their strong interest in hosting an AmeriCorps*VISTA, their history of successfully partnering with MCC on service-learning placements, their need for additional STEM and art educational resources and their willingness to participate in data collection and assessment to support reporting. 5. How the partner organization and members of the low-income community being served were involved in design. The VISTA member and the MCC supervisor meet on an ongoing basis with the Principal and Vice-Principal of BCPS and the District Curriculum Coordinator for Social Studies and Science. (See letters). MCC and BCPS have several mechanisms for ensuring that BCPS's low-income population is involved in the design of programming. The student perspective will be represented through the Student Council officers, four students elected by their peers. The parent perspective will be represented through the involvement of the BCPS PTO. In addition, three parents and a MCC professor are members of the Bartlett School Council, an advisory group that helps to develop the Unified School Improvement Plan (USIP) each year. All three of these groups help ensure that low-income members advise the partnership on an ongoing basis. 6) The primary departments and individuals with whom MACC AmeriCorps VISTA will be working. The individuals for planning and implementation are: for LPS - District Curriculum Coordinator for Social Studies and Science, Martha Cohn, Peter Holtz, Principal of the BCPS; and for MCC – Shana Berger, Director of Civic and Service-Learning. Planning will also include teachers and staff at the schools and STEM, arts (music, theatre, art) and allied health-related academic instructors and staff at MCC. 7. How proposed partnership aligns with existing plans for civic engagement on the campus and in the community. MCC's stated goals include integrating academic and workplace experiences, meeting community needs, empowering all to be lifelong learners, fostering engagement and strengthening our relationships with area partners. MCC has a long history of engaging students in service-learning with over 30 partners. Our focus for the next three years is to develop deeper partnerships with a select group of community partners, the BCPS partnership being a model. MCC

service-learning can address community needs in meaningful ways by connecting many service-learning courses and students with a single partner as we do with the BCPS partnership rather than connecting a few service-learners with many partners for a more superficial connection. 8. How approach will change over time. Changes to the work plan, surveys or other documentation or reporting are made through discussion and review by both MCC and LPS. Lessons learned from this past year will be incorporated into the new plan. 9) Plan for sustaining the program. MCC is currently developing a Student Change Agents (SCA) program. The SCAs, enrolled MCC students, will take on leadership roles to support service-learning with the BCPS. With support from the MCC Coordinator of Service-Learning, SCAs will conduct classroom visits to introduce the concept of service-learning and share s-l opportunities at the BCPS, serve as a liaison with the BCPS, provide orientation and troubleshooting for service-learners, and work with faculty to connect classroom learning with service activities through reflection. Other long-term options for sustaining the program include obtaining a graduate intern from an area university, such as UMass Lowell or Merrimack College. Finally, MCC is attempting, within a challenging budget environment, to grow the service-learning department to better support programs. Currently, MCC has one full-time staff member and one part-time. In coming years, we hope to increase the level of regularly-budgeted support for this highly-successful program.

C. Organizational Capacity to host an AmeriCorps*VISTA member:

1. Capacity to host a MACC AmeriCorps* VISTA. Woven throughout MCC's mission and vision is a deep commitment to our surrounding community. MCC's stated values include a core commitment to Access and Opportunity. In support of ameliorating poverty within our community through educational opportunities and pathways, MCC oversees and/or co-manages with LPS at least 12 projects and programs involving students enrolled in Lowell schools. Programs include an alternative middle school, Upward Bound, Talent Search, GEAR UP, Latino Connections (a dropout prevention program), MCAS remediation, STEM programming, and music/arts education enrichment. In 2015,

MCC received the distinct honor to be re-classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a community engaged campus. MCC has also been consistently selected for the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Both MCC and LPS will provide excellent staff supervision, adequate space and resources to support a placement at MCC and LPS sites, and encourage involvement in vibrant academic community. 2. Experience with proposed partnership. MCC and LPS have experience in implementing the current STEAM partnership over the past two years and have successfully collaborated on numerous projects in the past, as noted above. **FALL 2015:** Individual Service-Learning: 14 students from education, psychology, and ELL classes at MCC were placed in K-8 classrooms. These students provided one-on-one and small group support for students and served as positive mentors and role models. Science Lessons: 36 MCC students from Integrated Science I worked in groups to create lessons for 213 BCPS students in grades K-4. MCC students used the science curriculum to create their lessons and help reinforce BCPS student learning. Lesson topics included states of matter, magnetism, electricity, chemical change, the five senses and the solar system. Food Science Project: 14 MCC students from Introduction to Sociology courses worked as mentors for 18 BCPS students and taught them about topics related to food and fitness. Students worked with their mentors to develop, create, and perform experiments and analyze and present data. With the help of their MCC mentors, BCPS students created science fair posters and shared their work with teachers, fellow students and community members at the Food Science Fair. Chemistry Lab Field Trip: 11 MCC students from General Chemistry for Engineering and Science II course worked with 13 members of the BCPS Science Club in the MCC labs to conduct experiments. BCPS students were able to experience a lab environment and covered topics such as catalysts, water polarity, and molecular forces. The Science Club students also attended an MCC admissions session and were given a campus tour. Chemistry Experiments: 37 MCC students from Chemistry I facilitated two engaging chemistry experiments focused on chromatography and density with 56 BCPS 6th grade students. BCPS students

were able to take home the lava lamps they made with their MCC mentors. Dental Hygiene Educational Lessons: 4 students from Concepts in Dental Hygiene III course created engaging oral health presentations for 102 BCPS students in the 2nd and 5th grades. BCPS students learned about proper brushing techniques and good eating habits. **SPRING 2016**: 20 MCC students are engaged in individual service-learning. Theatre and Music In addition to continuing to support STEAM programming, MCC has launched arts-based service-learning programming. An individual service-learning student from an MCC Directing course and one from the music department are supporting theatre and music after school programming. Finally, an MCC World Drumming course is introducing 2nd, 7th, and 8th grade students to Brazilian, Hip Hop, West African and Taiko drumming. STEAM Projects. MCC service-learners are continuing to implement The Food Science Project, Science Lessons and Dental Hygiene Preventative Care projects. 3. Roles of staff. Please see D. 1. Project Management Plan. 4. Experience of the partnership in operating anti-poverty programming. Please see C. 2 Experience with proposed partnership. 5. Resources provided for the AmeriCorps*VISTA. Resources provided by MCC this past year included: a College ID, library privileges; secure office/desk space with office supplies; phone and private voicemail; access to computer with Internet and individual e-mail account; access to fax, photocopier, and printer; comprehensive community and campus orientation; and free parking. In addition, the Liaison had a workspace and access to a computer with Internet capabilities while at BCPS. These resources have supported the VISTA member effectively and will continue to be made available in the future.

D. Project Management: 1) Supervision at Host Site. Day-to-day supervision will be by Director of Civic & Service-Learning, Shana Berger. Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences, Dr. Matthew Olson, will also be involved with project oversight. Both are full-time employees. 2. Supervision at Community Partner Site. At the BCPS, the designated on-site supervisor will be Principal Holtz. In addition, Ms. Cohn will also support the Liaison. Both have experience supervising VISTA*

volunteers from the past three years. 3. Plan for Communication. MCC and BCPS will meet upon notification and develop the work plan. Subsequent meetings will take place to update the work plan. Ongoing meetings of the MCC service-learning staff, Lowell/BCPS site supervisors, and Liaison during the academic year will facilitate communication and planning. 4. Strategies to ensure that the VISTA is prepared. MCC will provide an orientation to MCC and the BCPS and to the community. He/she will be supported with weekly supervision through the first quarter and there will be continued communication and feedback throughout the placement. 5. How supervisors will monitor progress. Once a work plan is established, the supervisors will monitor the accomplishments through progress reports and will address target goals and objectives on a regular basis. The goals and objectives will be prepared by Ms. Berger with input from the BCPS staff. 6. Describe for data collection and assessing impact of the capacity building effort. Roll of MACC VISTA in data collection. This data Collection will focus primarily on **K-12 Success**. As such, data collection will include 1) number of service beneficiaries (BCPS K-8 Students), 2) # of volunteers, 3) # of hours of service, and 4) dollar value of leveraged resources. We will also collect data related to preventative dental care offered to students. Data collection in regard to the capacity building activities will also include number and type of placements and activities, and pre- and post- activity assessments when possible. Assessment of BCPS student learning outcomes will be completed through: a) formal assessment of student learning after an activity through written reflections; b) presentations by students after an experience to demonstrate learning; c) observation of BCPS students after their interactions with the MCC service-learning students to determine possible impact on class participation, interest in and confidence with subject matter, and demonstration of independent learning skills; and d) administration of STEM career interest survey to grade 5-8 students. LPS records will include a variety of indicators related to student activities, special events, community service and academic performance, including academic progress and standardized test scores. We also assess MCC students' return rate (Fall to Fall), comparing those

in the courses that participated in service-learning and those who did not. 7. Tools. Tools will include attendance sheets, site visits, surveys, reports, academic measures, MCAS test scores, student reflections, and portfolios. 8. Collaborations with other host sites. N/A 9. How partnership will collaborate with existing civic engagement programs on campus. The partnership will work with the newly developed Student Change Agents program to build the capacity of student leaders to support service-learning with BCPS.

E. Recruitment and Development: 1. Method. The current MACC Americorps*VISTA member will not serve for an additional year. MCC requests the MACC coordinated recruitment method in 2016-2017. 2. Skills most needed. Skills necessary include: ability to identify strategic goals and implement supporting activities; strong verbal and written communication skills; organizational, multi-tasking and time management skills, and the ability to engage and motivate students. 3. Transport. A personal vehicle is required to visit the targeted school and the MCC Campus. 4. Accommodations to meet the needs of qualified persons with disabilities. In accordance with the Commonwealth of MA Board of Higher Education MA Community Colleges Policy on Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, and Diversity, MCC will make reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities. 5. Additional incentives. MCC has established several resources that will be provided to MACC to assist in locating housing for the Liaison. Additional incentives will include the option to enroll or audit one course each semester at no cost; free lunch at the MCC campus cafeteria; free parking; and use of the Fitness Center and other staff amenities. 6. Professional development opportunities. Opportunities include being able to attend the two MCC All-College Professional Days and participate in teaching and learning workshops. Since 1984, The National Coalition Building Institute has worked to eliminate racism and all other forms of prejudice and discrimination throughout the world. The Liaison will have access to NCBI trainings offered at the five community colleges.



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Henry J. Mroz Administration Offices
155 Merrimack St.
Lowell, MA 01852

Martha Cohn

*Coordinator of Science and Social Studies,
PreK-12
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment*

Tel: (978) 674-2115

email: mcohn@lowell.k12.ma.us

March 10, 2016

Ms. Karen Chisholm
Massachusetts Campus Compact
45 Temple Place, 4th floor
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Chisholm:

I write to express enthusiastic support for an AmeriCorps*VISTA placement at the Bartlett Community Partnership School in Lowell. It is anticipated that 400 students will benefit from this partnership during the academic year 2016-2017.

As the Coordinator of Science and Social Studies, Pre K-12, I am poignantly aware of the needs of students of all ages in the sciences. Unfortunately, many of the students in Lowell schools are no strangers to poverty and are from home environments with sparse resources for learning. In 2015-16, 50.4% (or 80.6% using past years' indicator of free and reduced lunch to determine economic disadvantage) of LPS students are classified as economically disadvantaged. Approximately 25% of our students struggle with language barriers. In many cases, this background leads to poor academic performance and low results on standardized tests. We look forward to the proposed partnership to bolster student learning and increase our students' interest in STEM careers.

Lowell Public Schools understands the requirements articulated in the proposal and looks forward to sharing space and resources to host an AmeriCorps*Vista worker on-site. The principal of Bartlett Community Partnership has authorized the necessary office equipment and supplies, as well as my supervision of the worker while in the schools. I understand the role of MCC's Civic & Service-Learning Department to administer this cooperative project. LPS and MCC are very invested in the well-being of the Lowell community and we work well together addressing the economic and social challenges of our diverse urban area. We share the goal of our collaboration growing in scope through the activities described in this proposal.

If you have any questions or need information about this project, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martha Cohn".

Martha Cohn



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bartlett Community Partnership, PK-8
79 Wannalancit Street
Lowell, MA 01854
Tel: (978) 937-8968
Fax: (978) 441-3745



Peter B. Holtz
Principal

Dina M. Mancini
Assistant Principal

March 10, 2016

Ms. Karen Chisholm
MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA Director
Massachusetts Campus Compact
45 Temple Place, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Chisholm:

I am pleased to submit this letter as Principal of Bartlett Community Partnership School in Lowell, Massachusetts in support of our partnership renewal application with Middlesex Community College for the placement of an AmeriCorps*VISTA Liaison for 2016-17.

The interaction between the Bartlett students and the MCC students has been mutually beneficial because of the learning and the relationships that have taken place. This past Fall 2015 semester 430 Bartlett students—nearly 80% of the school-- benefitted from the AmeriCorps *VISTA placement. MCC service-learning students engage Bartlett students in hands-on science and dental hygiene educational lessons. Our students have also benefitted by visiting the chemistry labs at MCC and being exposed to the benefits of college at a young yet critical age. MCC dental hygiene students provide much needed preventative dental care to our Bartlett students. Our relationship with MCC is ongoing and our respective institutions are excited about the work accomplished to date. I look forward to the expansion of arts and STEAM programming in the coming year in addition to the successful and dynamic STEM programming.

I have authorized the work space and supervision for the VISTA placement while at the Bartlett Community Partnership School. I understand the lead role of MCC's Civic & Service-Learning program to administer this collaborative project. LPS and MCC are very invested in the well-being of the Lowell community, and we work well together addressing the economic and social challenges of our diverse urban area.

If you have any questions or need information about the Bartlett Community Partnership School, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Peter Holtz, Principal



Bedford Campus • 591 Springs Road • Bedford, MA 01730-1197 • 781-280-3200
Lowell Campus • 33 Kearney Square • Lowell, MA 01852-1987 • 978-656-3200

March 10, 2016

Karen Chisholm
MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA Director
Massachusetts Campus Compact
45 Temple Place, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Chisholm:

On behalf of Middlesex Community College (MCC), I am pleased to submit this letter of commitment to the Massachusetts Campus Compact (MACC) in support of our application for the AmeriCorps*VISTA Program. I continue to support the placement of an AmeriCorps*Vista worker at the College in the role of a liaison with the Lowell Public Schools (LPS) with a focus on the Bartlett Community Partnership K-8. In accordance with the host site request for proposals guidelines, **MCC has budgeted to commit up to \$7000 in 2016-17** for this renewal position.

The Middlesex Community College-Bartlett Community Partnership School (BCPS) collaboration is exemplary. In Fall 2015, 118 MCC students worked with over 400 BCPS students in individual and project-based service activities. A survey conducted by MCC indicates that the program has been effective in raising students' self-efficacy in the sciences and interest in STEM careers. The continuation of dental hygiene/allied health and arts programming will further the partnership by engaging more faculty and students with K-8 students at Bartlett Community Partnership School.

As an institution, MCC has greatly benefitted from AmeriCorps*Vistas in the past and has strongly supported the Vista. On behalf of MCC, I acknowledge the responsibilities of a host institution in supporting a MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA position. If you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Sisson
Provost/Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs



Bedford Campus • 591 Springs Road • Bedford, MA 01730-1197 • 781-280-3200
Lowell Campus • 33 Kearney Square • Lowell, MA 01852-1987 • 978-656-3200

March 10, 2016

Ms. Karen Chisholm
MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA Director
Massachusetts Campus Compact
45 Temple Place, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Chisholm:

As Dean Humanities and Social Science at Middlesex Community College, I enthusiastically support the placement of an AmeriCorps*Vista worker at the College in the role of a liaison with the Lowell Public Schools (LPS) with a focus on the Bartlett Community Partnership School in Lowell. The Division of Humanities and Social Science oversees service-learning, and as such, I will lend support to the project.

Middlesex Community College strives to enrich students' educational opportunities, meet community needs and foster civic responsibility throughout the college and the community at large. We do this by integrating service and action into the academic curriculum and throughout the student experience. During Fiscal Year 2015, 976 students participated in the service-learning program and performed over 21,000 service hours.

Middlesex was selected by Campus Compact as one of only 13 colleges in the nation to be studied as a model of exemplary practices of civic engagement. Further, MCC consistently been chosen for the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

As an institution, MCC has greatly benefitted from AmeriCorps*Vista placements in the past. Once again, I urge the consideration of the proposed AmeriCorps*Vista placement for 2016-17 to maximize our community partnership with LPS.

If you have any questions, please contact me at olsonm@middlesex.mass.edu.

Sincerely,

Matthew Olson, Ed.D.
Dean

Position Title: Middlesex Community College Service-Learning/Lowell Public School (LPS) Liaison
Position Reports to: Shana Berger, Director of Civic & Service-Learning

Position Summary:

The MACC AmeriCorps* VISTA will coordinate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) and Dental Hygiene service-learning programming between the faculty and students at MCC and the teachers and students at the Bartlett Community Partnership K-8 School in Lowell, MA. This project will provide support for STEAM programming in the individual classes at the School, the after school program, and in some instances bring K-8 students to the labs and Performances at MCC. It will also address the importance of dental hygiene and provide exposure to allied health careers by having MCC dental hygiene students provide educational programming and preventative care for K-8 classes. The intended impact of the partnership is greater proficiency in science and related STEAM and allied health fields. The Liaison will meet with MCC professors and students as well as targeted clubs to devise and coordinate small group projects and meet with the Bartlett School teachers to make sure the projects align. The Liaison will oversee the planning, logistics, implementation, and assessment of the projects. The Liaison will also work with the College's individual Service-Learning program to recruit students to serve as mentors at the Bartlett School.

Essential Duties:

- Meet with MCC faculty to plan STEAM and Dental Hygiene service-learning projects
- Communicate with the Bartlett teachers to ensure projects enhance curriculum and after-school programming
- Serve as a resource for MCC students as they plan their projects
- Coordinate logistics for MCC student participation and completion of projects
- Assist and support the recruitment of individual service-learning placements for MCC students
- Oversee the registration of all placements connected with the project
- Supervise MCC service-learning students at the Bartlett School
- Integrate the new BCPS Maker's Space into service-learning projects with support from BCPS teachers
- Assist in the development and implementation of assessment plans for the project
- Communicate regularly with Director of Civic & Service-Learning and School Supervisor about developments, plans, challenges, successes, etc.
- Participate in professional development opportunities at MCC and in the Lowell Community

Skills/Experience Required:

- Personal interest and knowledge in the fields of STEAM and allied health
- Experience working or mentoring in a K-8 setting; an education background a plus
- Demonstrated strong organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to oversee and lead college students
- Interest and experience in the community through service-learning, advocacy or community organizing
- Experience working with students and community partners of diverse socioeconomic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds

Contact Information: Shana Berger, Director of Civic & Service-Learning Middlesex Community College, 978-656 3470 or bergers@middlesex.mass.edu.