



## MARCH CELEBRATIONS

### AmeriCorps Week

This year National AmeriCorps Week is being held March 5-12, and the Public School Partnership can't wait to honor the accomplishments of our VISTA Members! During this annual celebration the Corporation for National & Community Service highlights the impact that AmeriCorps programs have on communities across the country. We are excited to take part in AmeriCorps Week activities at our training event and the AmeriCorps Gathering later this month. We would also like to give a shout-out to our new VISTA Members; Jasmine Powell at Cache High School, Tonia Day at Children's Land Alliance Supporting Schools (CLASS), Jenni Allred at the Center for Civic Engagement and Service-Learning (CCESL), Taylor DeVilbiss at Fremont High, and Jessica Westover with Title VII.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 7-11:** AmeriCorps Week & USU's Spring Break
- **March 8:** Tonia's Birthday
- **March 9:** Quarterly Training (Mandatory), 9am-5pm
- **March 10:** AmeriCorps Gathering (Optional)
- **March 11:** Shonna's Birthday
- **March 11:** Life Skills Conference @ Box Elder Middle School
- **March 15:** Jennie H.'s Birthday
- **March 28-April 1:** Cache County & Logan School Districts' Spring Break
- **April 5:** Mayors Day @ the Historic Cache County Courthouse, 3-4:30pm
- **April 7 & 8:** Site Visits
- **April 4-8:** Box Elder District Spring Break
- **April 13:** Monthly Training: Resumes
- **April 16:** Gracie's Birthday

## SITE HIGHLIGHTS

### Look at What Our VISTAs Have Been Up To

#### Fremont High School

Every Tuesday morning at Fremont High, classes start an hour later than usual to give teachers the opportunity to participate in professional development. However, the buses still arrive at the regular time and many students are left with a free hour. VISTA Member Amy Lambert and Fremont student advocates have optimized this time for students by coordinating "Pack Tuesday Tutoring", in which peer tutors work with students who need math homework help in the hour between buses arriving and classes starting. So far, five volunteer peer tutors have been recruited for the program to help their classmates. Their goal is to assist 25 students with math homework each week, with plans to recruit more tutors and expand to other subjects as well. As Principal Dr. Belnap would say: "It's a great day to be a Silver Wolf!"

#### Children's Land Alliance

#### Supporting Schools (CLASS)

School trust lands were created by U.S. Congress in each state as they became part of the country. These trusts constitute a compact between the federal government and each state; as part of this agreement state governments assume the responsibility to manage the lands to provide funding for public education. The goal of CLASS, which is based in Salt Lake City, is to ensure that future generations of schoolchildren benefit from school trust lands in perpetuity. VISTA Member Tonia Day uses her broad range of experience in community schools to educate the public about school trust lands and advocate for the most effective use of these funds for at-risk students. For more information on school trust lands, you can visit

[www.childrenslandalliance.com](http://www.childrenslandalliance.com).

## AMERICORPS WEEK

### Celebrating Tradition

This month marks the annual celebration of AmeriCorps Week, a time when AmeriCorps Members and alumni from all programs are recognized for their service to our nation's communities. During the week of March 5-12 we ask that site supervisors and other community members show their appreciation for AmeriCorps Members, whether it be in the form of public acknowledgement, a thank-you card, or something else.



To celebrate AmeriCorps Week, PSP VISTA Members can join us for the 2016 Utah AmeriCorps gathering in Salt Lake City on March 10, where our very own VISTA Leader, Shonna Ferree, will be a guest speaker. At this event VISTAs will have the opportunity to network with other AmeriCorps Members, participate in a service project, and attend educational sessions about making the most of the AmeriCorps experience. We hope to see you there!

## "GOOGLE THIS!"

### Tips & Tricks for VISTAs

An AmeriCorps VISTA position is unique in many ways, and often VISTA alumni struggle with how to adapt the skills learned during their year of service into a traditional resume. Though not technically considered employment, VISTA experience shows a person's ability to handle tough tasks, their commitment to seeing things through, and their dedication to working on challenging issues. Below is a list of online resources that may be helpful in looking for employment after a year of VISTA service:

- [www.vistacampus.gov/after-vista](http://www.vistacampus.gov/after-vista)
- [www.americorpsalums.org](http://www.americorpsalums.org)
- [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)
- [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov)

For more information on incorporating VISTA experience into a resume or CV, you can come to our optional monthly training event on April 13th.

The Public School Partnership (PSP) is an educational nonprofit organization based at Utah State University in Cache Valley, UT. The PSP accomplishes its mission to eliminate poverty through improving education by building partnerships between schools, parents, and the surrounding community in Northeastern Utah.

## PSP ACQUIRES RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

### Expanding Our Service Vision

In late February the PSP got exciting news that we had received a grant from the Corporation for National & Community Service to continue the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The RSVP has an extensive history in Cache and Rich counties under the direction of program coordinator Rod Pack; these grant funds will allow the RSVP to remain in operation and expand in scope. The program will connect seniors to schools and education-based organizations in need of volunteer service. Through the RSVP, senior volunteers will have the opportunity to serve as guest speakers, tutors, mentors, and classroom aides. Volunteer work is known to increase feelings of well-being in seniors, who have invaluable experience to contribute to the community.

We are looking forward to this new chapter for the Public School Partnership and anticipate welcoming over 150 senior volunteers on board. This new program acquisition means there will be shifts in leadership over the coming months, so we appreciate your patience as we work through these changes. We hope you are as excited as we are for future collaborations between the RSVP and our current AmeriCorps VISTA program!



*If you think one of PSP's VISTA Members deserves special recognition, you can submit a nomination on our website at:*  
[www.publicschoolpartnership.com](http://www.publicschoolpartnership.com)