




### Celebrations & Events at PSP

In May, PSP celebrated Senior Corps Week with an ice cream social at Merlin Olsen Park. Current and interested RSVP volunteers and partners were able to meet and mingle over ice cream while PSP RSVP Director Krista Gurko introduced the PSP team and the new, exciting changes coming to the RSVP program here in Cache and Rich counties. It was an excellent opportunity to get to know our future RSVP team!

Also in May, VISTA Jasmine Despain hosted a Summer Activities night at her site, Bridger Elementary. Over 15 local schools and organizations had the opportunity to inform parents and students about summer learning activities they will host this summer as well as other services they offer throughout the year. Bridger Elementary was able to promote its own summer learning program, which will begin June 6 and run until July 22.

On May 21, PSP Title VII VISTAs Cameron Brewer, Jennie Hymas, and Jessica Westover hosted their first ever Senior Celebration event at Mountain Crest High. The event celebrated the accomplishments of graduating Native seniors from three school districts who worked closely with our Title VII team over the past school year. Over 30 Native high-school seniors, family, friends, and teachers attended the event. The Title VII team members, Miss American Indian USU Jasmine Despain, and Title VII Site Supervisor Kris Hart gave inspiring, heartfelt speeches, and each senior received a unique award for their accomplishment. The team also worked hard to obtain donations for all of the food and the beautiful flower arrangements. Thank you to the Title VII team for all you have done to support Native Students in Northern Utah!

 Congrats grads! Several PSP VISTA Members recently graduated from university or high school, and we are proud to have been a part of their journey! Recent grads

include: Shayley Warner (University of Utah), Angelina Whitehorse (Utah State), Jon Wilkey (Utah State), Angela Wood (Utah State), and Jasmine Powell (Cache High). They have worked tirelessly on school while serving as VISTA Members with our program, and we are so grateful for the level of dedication and work ethic they bring to our team.

### VISTA Member Recognition



**Graciela Botello,**  
**CCE Education Outreach**  
*2016 Youthlinc Young Humanitarian Award*

Every year, Youthlinc, a Utah-based organization dedicated to developing young people into lifetime humanitarians, awards five young individuals with the Youthlinc Young Humanitarian Award. This year, our very own VISTA, Gracie Botello, has been selected among over 100 applicants as one of the five award recipients for her work with her My Young Mother Program. As part of the award, Gracie has received a \$1,000 college scholarship, and she was recognized at the Youthlinc banquet and fundraiser. Her My Young Mother Program awards one young mother in Cache Valley with a

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **June 15:** Quarterly Training, 9am-4pm at USU Inn & Conference Center
- **June 13:** CVNSA Meeting, 12-1pm at UCC Yurt
- **June 16-17:** Summer Associate Site Visits
- **June 20-21:** Full-Term VISTA Site Visits
- **June 21:** PSP Talent Show, 6-7:30pm
- **June 22-23:** UMTSS Conference
- **June 27-28:** RSVP Conference in SLC
- **June 27-29:** Points of Light Conference on Volunteering & Service in Detroit



baby-care gift package and a scholarship to Bridgerland Applied Technical College (BATC) so that she can pursue post-secondary education in the field of her choice.

## **New Faces on the PSP Team!**

PSP is happy to announce the addition of several new VISTA Members and office personnel to our team. Maia Garren recently joined the PSP Office staff as our new Office Assistant. She will support our team on PSP training and service projects, help prepare for site visits, request donations and recruit volunteers where needed, track reporting data, and provide other assistance where necessary. We are also excited to announce that current Title VII VISTA Cameron Brewer will join the PSP Office team as a VISTA Leader in August! He and Shonna will both serve as PSP VISTA Leaders, and they will work together to make sure our VISTA Members and administrative team feel supported, happy, and motivated to do their best during their yearlong service term.

PSP has also successfully hired for several of its open VISTA positions at Ridgeline High, Sky View High, Mountain Crest High, South Cache 8-9 Center, and Title VII:



Current Sky View VISTA Jaclyn LeBlond will transition to the newly opening Ridgeline High for her second VISTA term and will work with the counseling office and student body to implement various intervention and student-support programs. Ridgeline High is still recruiting for one additional VISTA position. Sound Beginnings VISTA Members Megan Williams and Jason Jensen will also re-enroll with PSP; Megan will join first-time VISTA Dani Chaplin at Sky View High while Jason will join the Mountain Crest High team. South Cache 8-9 Center will welcome first-time VISTA Reyna Reeder for the 2016-2017 school year. The Title VII VISTA team welcomes Aubree Thomas and Rachel Busenbark for their first full-term VISTA service term. The Title VII team is also looking to fill one more VISTA position.

To apply for a position with PSP, please visit: [www.publicschoolpartnership.com/full-termoffice.html](http://www.publicschoolpartnership.com/full-termoffice.html)

## **New Partners, New Opportunities**

PSP always welcomes the chance to partner with new schools and organizations here in the community. Beginning in August, PSP's AmeriCorps VISTA program will be placing VISTA Members at two new sites – The Family Place and Ridgeline High School. VISTA Members at The Family Place will work to identify sustainable sources of financial support through donations, community sponsors, and grants; raise awareness and engage in community outreach through event promotion and planning; and tracking and analyzing The Family Place's impact in order to improve and better support its services.

VISTA Members at Ridgeline High will work closely with the counseling office to help meet school needs by implementing and overseeing attendance and student pride programs, promoting college and career readiness, facilitating FAFSA workshops, coordinating clubs, assisting with graduation and credit monitoring, tracking student progress, collecting and reporting data, training others, soliciting donations, and collaborating on grant proposals.

Throughout the year, local organizations also have the opportunity partner with PSP by signing up to become Senior Corps RSVP "stations" or host sites. If you are interested in becoming a RSVP host site, please contact Krista Gurko or Rodney Pack: [rsvpcacherich@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpcacherich@gmail.com)

## **Summer Learning Programs in the Community**

### **Local Learning & Service Programs**

Several of PSP sites, and many other organizations, are running unique summer learning programs for youth in Cache Valley. Prices vary, and discounts may be offered. See below for a list of programs and contact information:

- **Bridger Elementary Summer Program, June 6-July 22 (free lunch):** Jasmine

- Despain, jasmineluett@gmail.com or Sarah Keady, skeady@aggiemail.usu.edu
- **Cache Makers STEM Programs, June 6-August 19:** Dallin Graham, dallin.graham@usu.edu/435-915-6253
  - **Logan Family Center (formerly FIRC), various programs throughout summer:** Laura Higgins, boiselauraelizabeth@gmail.com or Rachel Busenbark, rachel.busenbark@gmail.com
  - **PSP Summer Service Project, July 12:** email Shonna Ferree if you would like to participate with our VISTA team, pspvistaleader@gmail.com
  - **Sound Beginnings Summer Camp, June 9-10:** Wendy Thompson, wendy.thompson@usu.edu/435-797-9234
  - **Wilson Elementary Summer Program, June 28-July 27 (free lunch):** Ashley Erickson, ashleygudmundson@gmail.com or Stacey Rudd, s.rudd@aggiemail.usu.edu

## Conference & Training Opportunities

Our PSP staff and service members have several chances to gain some new knowledge, skills, and service experiences this summer. This summer, our service members are able to participate in our quarterly training, the GEAR UP's USU STARS summer camp for rising high school juniors, the Utah Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (UMTSS) conference, the PSP summer service project, and an Excel training.

PSP Director Rikki Wheatley and VISTA Leader Shonna Ferree will also have the unique opportunity to present at the annual Points of Light Conference on Volunteering and Service in Detroit at the end of June. They will present best practices and ways to implement a unified national service effort based on the Cache Valley National Service Alliance (CVNSA) model. RSVP Director Krista Gurko will attend an RSVP Director's conference in SLC where she will be able to meet and brainstorm with other RSVP Directors in the state.

## Life After National Service: What's Next for our VISTA Members?

Life after a national service term is difficult to imagine. Our VISTA Members spend hours of their time translating service experiences to their resumes, searching for job opportunities, and participating in

trainings where they learn how to best market their skills. Several PSP VISTA Members have already been able to secure full-time employment immediately following the end of their service, or they have re-enrolled as a PSP VISTA and will have the opportunity to utilize their skills and experiences at another PSP site.

Angela Wood, our VISTA at Willow Valley Middle will join the counseling team at the brand-new Ridgeline High in Millville and will work with Cache County School District and USU as a Psychology 1010 Instructor serving students at Mountain Crest High and Ridgeline High. Sky View VISTA Jon Wilkey will end his two-year VISTA service in August as well, and he will take his skills and experiences to the counseling team at Bingham High in South Jordan, UT. Congratulations to Angela and Jon!

Completing a successful VISTA term can open up several



incredibly useful benefits available to alumni. VISTA Members are able to choose between a \$5,775 Education Award that can be applied to loans or tuition or a \$1,500 cash stipend. VISTA Members also are eligible for Non-Competitive Eligibility for up to one year following their service term when applying for federal job positions, and other positions will sometimes even accept VISTA service as tenure on the job which allows employees to start a position with one or two years towards benefits under their belt. All AmeriCorps program alumni also have access to helpful resources available through the AmeriCorps Alums organization. More information on AmeriCorps Alums can be found at:

[www.americorpsalums.org](http://www.americorpsalums.org)

**Thank you for your  
continued support of the  
Public & School Partnership!**

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.