



Campus Compact
Illinois

Illinois Campus Compact

August 2015



Save the date: VISTA50 Anniversary, September 26

Happenings

Sept. 8

CSD Conference Call Check-In, 2 p.m.: Optional call for CSDs to call in, ask questions and connect with peers from across the state.

Sept. 25

Semi-Annual Regional VISTA Training 11 a.m. – 2 p. m:
DePaul University, Loop Campus, 1 East Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL. 60604

Preparations are underway to mark the 50th anniversary of VISTA in a manner befitting the mission and vision of AmeriCorps VISTA founded in 1965 as a national service program to fight poverty in America. The Corporation of National and Community Service (CNCS) will host the golden anniversary event September 26th at Catalyst Ranch, Chicago.

ILCC VISTA members actively participated in planning and organizing, served on VISTA50 committees and successfully performed a multitude of tasks such as collecting food donations, raising funds and locating a venue for the event, which will be attended by current and past VISTA members and supporters. VISTA50 provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge service and engage more to alleviate poverty, More than 46 million Americans live in poverty today.◆

One-on-One with a wonderful VISTA alumna and passionate community service practitioner



Andrea Bell

Andrea Bell serves as the Assistant Director of Student Community Service at Northwestern University. She started off her career as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Illinois Campus Compact in 2009, served two terms at Western Illinois University and Northwestern University, respectively. A native of St. Louis, MO, raised with 11 siblings, she earned her Bachelor's in Business Administration from Rhodes College in Memphis. Currently, she is pursuing her M. A. in Non-Profit Administration at North Park University. An avid supporter of social media, Andrea views it "as a way to connect and stay informed as well as enter contests!" She has won tickets to concerts, fundraiser invites, jewelry and even her cell phone from twitter contests! As VISTA turns 50, we celebrate by sharing successes and achievements of outstanding members and alumni like Andrea.

ILCC: What motivated you to serve as a VISTA member?

AB: When I was preparing to graduate from Rhodes College, I was looking for roles that were in line with my Business Administration degree. I found that I was not passionate about the for profit industry. My sister encouraged me to apply to City Year and that's when I discovered just how many programs there were in AmeriCorps. I was drawn to Campus Compact and the opportunity to get more college students engaged in service and graduating more active citizens.

ILCC: What was your role and responsibilities?

AB: I completed two terms as an ILCC VISTA. At Western Illinois University I worked primarily at VolunteerNOW, which was the volunteer center for the City of Macomb. As a staff of one, reporting to a Board of Directors, you can imagine that I had a year full of wonderful, challenging, and life changing experiences. My second term was here at Northwestern University where I really tapped into my passion and excitement for working with students as a member of the Center for Student Involvement team.

ILCC: Tell us about the challenges that you faced and what kept you going?

AB: The biggest challenge I faced as a new VISTA was moving to a new place, for a new experience, alone. It was a difficult transition but I grew both professionally and personally. Building a network is key! I started attending events in the community, and I got to know more about the university and the types of students there. I found great support in a network of Peace Corps fellows who were attending WIU for graduate school, but were also completing service with AmeriCorps.

ILCC: You started off as a VISTA, and today you lead Northwestern's Student Community Service as its Assistant Director! That's huge. How did you achieve that?

AB: I'm definitely not running the show, but I'm happy to be a part of this work at an institution like Northwestern. My ILCC and VISTA experience were vital in equipping me with skills to work in this field, along with a lot of support and encouragement from my supervisors.

ILCC: What aspect should we focus on more in our fight against poverty in America?

AB: The first step is to get into the communities! We can't solve any problems from our offices or from our campuses. It is essential to work in partnership with communities and allow them to lead the work. But it is our responsibility to be engaged, encourage those around us to be engaged, and allow communities to narrate their own story.

ILCC: Any suggestions to further improve VISTA program?

AB: I would love for VISTAs to have more intentional orientation to higher education as a profession. While we are service/civic engagement practitioners, it is important to know what it means to be a higher education professional and the career opportunities on campus beyond the year of VISTA.

ILCC: Any piece of advice to our new VISTA members?

AB: Take advantage of your experience. While you do have a VAD to guide your priorities for the year, you are at world class institutions working with professionals who are leaders in their fields. Get involved in committees, take advantage of professional development opportunities, and network. ♦



The next Presidential Election is only two semesters away! The National debates have begun, candidates are crisscrossing the U.S. and National Voter Registration Day is September 22, 2015. While November 2016 sounds far in the future, it will be here quickly. This is exciting and good news for you.

Many of you have heard me talk about the importance of continuing the momentum. Come September 2016, we want to make sure your campus is ready for GOTV. Paul Loeb states, "Not participating guarantees selling our common future to the higher bidder."

Illinois Campus Compact has long been a partner and supporter of the Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP). CEEP, a national nonpartisan group founded in 2008 by Paul Loeb, helps our colleges and universities use their resources and networks to engage America's 20 million students in elections. Specifically, CEEP believes in coaching schools through direct engagement to help make electoral engagement a campus priority.

I began working with CEEP last Fall 2014 to encourage Illinois schools to help get students involved and participate in the Governor election. CEEP and I did this by providing resources, ideas, meetings and hands on tactile suggestions. Several schools in Illinois were very successful in helping their campus and their students register and vote.

(continued)

Getting out the vote

By Amy Ludwig

Motivating your campus around electoral engagement

- **Utilize the Electoral Engagement Assessment tool**
- **Share the assessment results and connect with others on campus to learn about what area(s) on campus people would like connect with and work on for the next year**
- **Establish everyone's motivation and goal for being part of the electoral team while creating a sense of community and chance for people to better get to know one another.**
- **Set team goals and assign tasks of who will contact and establish a working relationship with the IT department, Career Center, Residence Halls, Student Life, SGA, Faculty, and Community Partners.**
- **Create a year-long calendar which clearly lays out goals and next steps**
- **Educate yourself on local, state and national elections.**

Regardless of an election outcome, the ultimate goal is for our students to become lifelong electoral participants.

Paul Loeb wrote an outstanding and informative article “Youth Vote at Record Low—Here’s How to Reverse the Trend” that was recently published in the *Huffington Post*. The article talks about how recent voting laws have significantly impacted youth turnout at the polls.

While recent laws and trends have hindered the number of student voters, there are still ways in which our campuses can help reverse the trend. I want to help empower your school to systematically address electoral engagement. For some of you, this process has begun.

You have utilized the electoral engagement assessment and have implemented voter registration tables at summer orientation and back to school events. I have encouraged many of you to begin forming teams of other faculty and staff across your institution that have an interest in making electoral engagement a campus priority.

My responsibility is to help coach and educate you about effective approaches for your campus. From working with your IT department to have online information about voting on your schools homepage to providing a model for students to receive academic credit for

their election engagement effort, I am here to help you navigate the sometimes daunting task of getting out the vote.

I will continue to send out information and new resources from CEEP. My door is always open and I am more than happy to come and talk with you on your campus. There are numerous ways your campus can increase its electoral engagement and various ways I can help. Below are links to online resources, which are very useful in thinking about election laws, voting and student involvement.

I look forward to working with you and your campus!

- 411: www.vote411.org
- League of Women Voters Illinois: www.lwvill.org
- Brennan Center: www.brennancenter.org/analysis/student-voting-guide-illinois

Amy Ludwig, ILCC Associate Director, serves as CEEP’s Illinois organizer. You may contact her by emailing at aludwig1@depaul.edu



Paul Loeb founded CEEP in 2008.

Additional CEEP resources:

- ⇒ **James Madison University Model: Academic Credit for Election Engagement**
- ⇒ **VCU Mosby Court Project: Community Partnership Engagement**
- ⇒ **Covering Elections Through Student Social Media Reporting**

Setting our goals and laying out priorities

From the Executive Director

As I reach the milestone of my first three months with Illinois Campus Compact, there is much to reflect on. I have been overwhelmed by the support and hospitality I have received meeting with many of you across the state.

I've been to almost half of our member institutions with the goal to make it to all campuses by the end of the year.

There is amazing work in civic engagement, service-learning, community service, and civic education happening all over the state of Illinois. I am humbled and proud to be part of this great community.

Looking forward, a few things have stood out as priorities for ILCC:

- **Communication:** Many of you have advocated for better communication not just from the ILCC office but with increased networking opportunities across the compact, both state-wide and nationally. This newsletter is a first step, giving you the opportunity to

hear about great work, dedicated professionals, and programs happening across the Compact nation. You will see more of this type of communication as well as an updated website in the next few months.

- **Critical conversations:** With varying types of institutions around the state, ILCC will help facilitate conversations between like-minded campuses. Whether that be campuses doing similar programs that can support each other's growth or campuses facing similar budgetary issues, ILCC is in the unique position to help you learn from each other. Be on the lookout for conference calls, webinars, and gatherings in the coming year to help advance those opportunities.
- **Resources:** Many of you are looking towards your futures and what your campus will be able to accomplish. How can ILCC support those goals and initiatives? We are looking to strengthen our

relationships with community partners across the state with an eye to building resources for our members, financially and programmatically. There will be updates to our VISTA program and our grants with an emphasis on collaboration both with ILCC members and the larger network of civically engaged organizations across the state.

It's an exciting time for ILCC! You will notice a new logo on this newsletter that reflects the national changes to the Campus Compact brand.

If I have not made it to your campus yet, expect to hear from me soon. I'm continually inspired by the work you do and honored to support you.

Enjoy the beginning of the school year!

Natalie Furlett

Our new logo reflects the national changes to the Campus Compact brand.





Ken Bedell during the Interfaith Campus Challenge brainstorming session hosted by ILCC on April 4 in Chicago.

ILCC VISTA to present at President's Interfaith Challenge

Candace Metcalf, AmeriCorps VISTA at Illinois Campus Compact, will present her paper "Social Impact Assessment" at the Fifth Annual President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge conference in Washington, DC, September 10-11. Candace received the invitation during a brainstorming session on President's Interfaith Community Service Campus Challenge hosted by ILCC on April 4th in Chicago. Ken Bedell, Senior Advisor at Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships Center, led this listening session that aimed to shape the interfaith vision. The Chicago meeting was the third in a series of listening sessions that

started off in Los Angeles. The second meeting took place in New York and the fourth at Elmhurst University.

The idea of Interfaith Campus Challenge rests on President Obama's vision of America's participation in global community that he presented during his address at the United Nations last November.

Candace said she is very excited about going to this national conference. "Not only am I getting to present for the first time at a conference, but at a very big and national conference. My participation in the AmeriCorps VISTA Program opened these doors of opportunity." She hopes to learn about interfaith service on college campuses across the nation and in other countries as well. ♦

"My participation in the AmeriCorps VISTA program opened doors of opportunities"



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Illinois Campus Compact is a coalition of 40 colleges and universities working together to promote the civic mission of higher education through effective civic engagement and serving learning practices.

We provide support, workshops, funding, conferences and more for members and community partners, including the AmeriCorps VISTA Program, Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP), and Community Service Directors (CSDs) meetings.

For more information, visit www.illinoiscampuscompact.org

Initiatives

Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) campuselect.org helps campuses engage students in electoral process.

AmeriCorps VISTA aims to increase civic engagement on campuses. Goals include Tutoring and Mentoring, College Access and Success, and Student Veterans.

Community Service Director (CSD) meetings aim to share and discuss updates and upcoming events.

Executive Director

Natalie Fulleth
Email: nfulleth@depaul.edu

14 East Jackson Blvd. Suite 900
Chicago, IL. 60604
Phone: (312) 362 - 7693
Fax: (312) 362 -5671
www.illinoiscampuscompact.org

Editor
Rubina Jabbar

For questions and comments,
email rjabbar@depaul.edu

**Educating Citizens.
Building Communities.**