

FINAL ISSUE

The Service-Learning Chronicle



LEARN AND SERVE COLORADO



Summer 2007
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 6

The End of an Era, The Learn and Serve Colorado VISTA Team

While it may sound cliché to say that as this AmeriCorps*VISTA Team finishes their service, it is the end of an era, I really do believe that it is true. This VISTA team is the final team after six consecutive years of VISTAs working hard to implement service-learning in the State of Colorado.

After six years it might seem that we have running a VISTA team down pat, but the truth is that each new team brings new personalities, a new sense of energy and new challenges. Learn and Serve Colorado has learned and grown along with the VISTA program.

Collectively these teams have accomplished an amazing amount in the State. This year alone the team has sustained and created 30 youth councils in addition to building a formidable army of 50 Master Teachers, and the year is not even over! The team did all this while making sure that all of our service-learning opportunities have been high-quality.

While the numbers are impressive, what does all this mean for the youth of Colorado? It is my hope that we have accomplished exactly what VISTA sets out to do. I hope we have engaged students in their communities and education to give them a better chance at life; to make sure that they have the tools, knowledge and resources to be effective citizens and break out of a cycle of poverty.

However, more meaningful than my hopes are the benefits that students, teachers and community partners have seen. I think it holds true that those who have experienced the effects of our service can truly evaluate the success of our program.



The 2006-2007 Learn and Serve Colorado AmeriCorps*VISTA Team Visiting one of Colorado's many Natural Wonders, the Great Sand Dunes and Zapata Falls in the San Luis Valley

This is what parents, teachers and students had to say:

Colorado Springs 12th Grader: Our youth council was a positive program for me to be involved in because it provided me with a resource to better understanding the concerns of my peers and neighbors.

Holyoke Coordinator: I have seen huge growth in students over time. Students have shown that they will give up their time and energy outside of school to help make this community and school better. They have been positive leaders for youth.

Holyoke 10th Grader: I like being a part of the youth council because it is a great opportunity to interact with the community and tie-in real issues with what we do in school.

Yuma Coordinator: I can't wait until we do more service learning projects in the community. I'm excited about this!

Arvada Coordinator: The work we have done in our youth council is not just typical student work. It is work that turns heads and perhaps makes people believe in the work of children.

Arvada 4th Grader: I think it's great that my school can help the whole world!

Lafayette Parent: Service-Learning is the BEST! Everyone one loves service learning!

Article submitted by AmeriCorps*VISTA Leader, Alexis St. Juliana, [Colorado Department of Education](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ♦ July 24-26, 2007, [Cathy Berger Kaye's Service-Learning Institute](#), Colorado Springs, CO.
- ♦ August 18, 2007. Learn and Serve AmeriCorps*VISTAs complete

SERVICE-LEARNING CHRONICLE



"Being on a VISTA team has been such a great support, especially at the beginning of my service. I instantly knew 12 people in the state who were doing similar things and I could share stories and ask for advice from my instant VISTA family. I thank my VISTA team and supervisors for the constant contact, friendship and support throughout this year." - VISTA Member Malia Crouse

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