

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

VISTA Member Job Title: Daytona State College VISTA Member
Sponsoring Organization: University of Central Florida Project Name: OSI AmeriCorps VISTA Project Project Number: 3425872 Project Period: February 24, 2017-February 23, 2018
Subsite Name (if applicable): Daytona State College
Focus Area(s): Higher Education

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Project: To better serve the needs of its homeless student population and those who are facing homelessness, Daytona State College plans to create a partnership with Hope Place, a family shelter that may offer temporary emergency accommodations to DSC students who are facing a housing crisis, as well as a student-centered “hub” in which those who need assistance can be more efficiently directed to services and organizations found on campus, in the community and online. According to the latest CCSE survey, 16% of DSC students who responded said they have faced homelessness in their lifetime—8% within the last year. In 2014, 82 students qualified / signed up for the homeless student tuition waiver. In 2015, the number increased to 87. A dedicated student center staffed by student leader volunteers, would serve as both a clearinghouse of information that students could consult to help them avoid a crisis mode, as well as allow them a more coordinated and quicker referral to appropriate assistance if they do. VISTA member would provide capacity building support for both.

Objective of the Assignment (*Period of Performance: Ongoing*)

Support DSC by continuing College-Community outreach and by cultivating additional resources through grant research and writing for program needs.

Member Activities:

Step 1: Research online best practices, initiatives, grants, etc. that would support DSC's proposed homeless student hub.

Step 2: Research, foster, and maintain connections between DSC and community organizations, such as One Voice for Volusia, etc., that would be able to provide assistance to both the hub and the campus, as a whole.

Step 3: Coordinate with SGA, faculty, and staff to bringing to our campus a greater awareness and understanding of homelessness and best practices to address it.

Objective of the Assignment (*Period of Performance: Ongoing*)

Help establish a campus-wide food bank / clothes closet for all DSC students.

Member Activities:

Step 1: Serve as liaison with UCF / UCF-Daytona's Knights' Pantry

Step 2: Coordinate with SGA, PTK, Homeless Mentoring Committee, et al. to bring awareness to and help stock DSC's Falcon Fuel Food Pantry.

Objective of the Assignment (*Period of Performance: ongoing*)

Help Establish Partnership between DSC and Hope Place

Member Activity: Step 1: Coordinate with SGA, PTK, and campus organizations to establish a mentoring program between DSC students and residents of Hope Place family shelter and residents of the neighborhood which surrounds it.

Member Activity: Step 2: Help DSC faculty and staff, such as Homeless Student Mentoring Program, Service Learning Committee, etc., establish and maintain list / schedule of services offered to Hope Place

Member Activity: Step 3: Coordinate with SGA, PTK, and campus organizations to create activities that promote awareness / support for Hope Place.