



**Welcome to** **Using the Education Award and Managing Student Loans**

To join the audio portion by phone, please dial: **800.988.9536**  
Passcode: **9670753**

*While you wait, please share in the chat box what you think you'd like to use your Education Award for?*



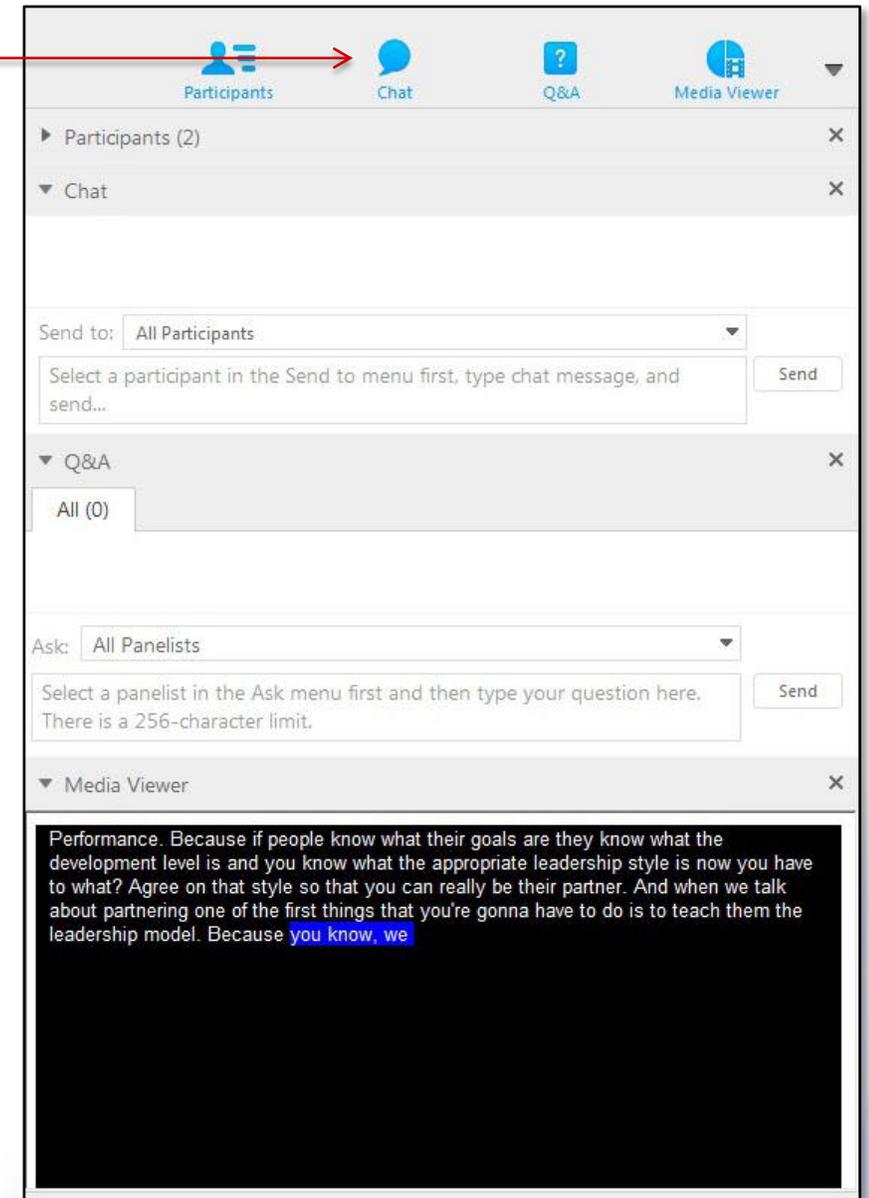
**Dial:** **800.988.9536**

**Passcode:** **9670753**

# Tips for Participating

- Audio broadcast by phone and online
- To share comments and ideas, use the Chat panel. Send to “All Participants”.
- To ask questions, use the Q&A panel. Send to “All Panelists”.
- Links and recording will be available after the session
- Closed Captions can be viewed in the Media Viewer panel

*Click this button if you don't see the chat panel.*



The screenshot displays a meeting control panel with several sections:

- Top Bar:** Contains icons for Participants, Chat, Q&A, and Media Viewer. A red arrow points to the Chat icon with the text "Click this button if you don't see the chat panel."
- Participants (2):** A panel showing the current number of participants.
- Chat:** A panel for sending messages. It includes a "Send to:" dropdown menu set to "All Participants" and a "Send" button. Below the dropdown is a text input field with the placeholder "Select a participant in the Send to menu first, type chat message, and send...".
- Q&A:** A panel for asking questions. It includes an "Ask:" dropdown menu set to "All Panelists" and a "Send" button. Below the dropdown is a text input field with the placeholder "Select a panelist in the Ask menu first and then type your question here. There is a 256-character limit."
- Media Viewer:** A panel for viewing media. It shows a video player with a black background and white text. The text reads: "Performance. Because if people know what their goals are they know what the development level is and you know what the appropriate leadership style is now you have to what? Agree on that style so that you can really be their partner. And when we talk about partnering one of the first things that you're gonna have to do is to teach them the leadership model. Because you know, we".

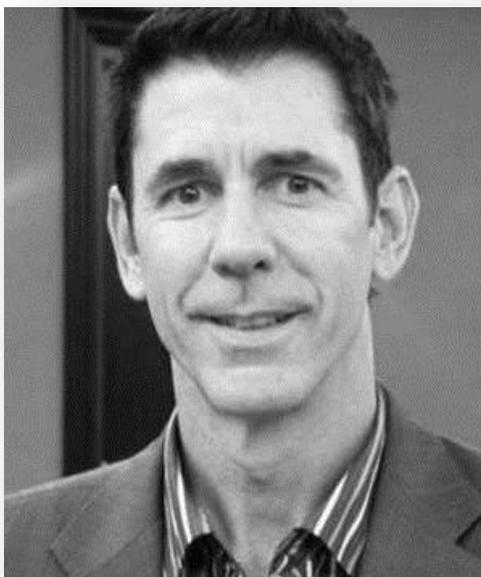


*Welcome to*

# Using the Education Award and Managing Student Loans



# Today's Team



**Andy King**

Training Specialist  
AmeriCorps VISTA



**Jessica Knight**

Education Northwest



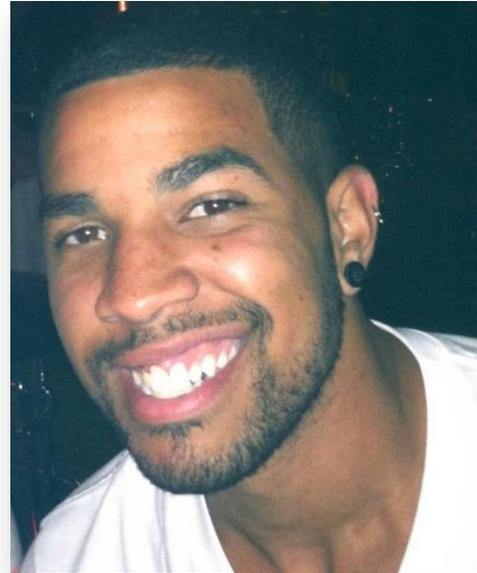
**Endi Clark**

Education Northwest

# Today's Presenters



ShaVonne Walker  
VISTA Member Support  
Specialist  
CNCS



Calvin Landrum  
VISTA Member Support  
Specialist  
CNCS

# Today's Agenda

- Using the Education Award to pay existing and future debt
- Loan forbearance & deferment
- Public service loan forgiveness
- Income based repayment
- Questions and resources

# Poll

Do you know what kind of student you loans you have?



# Types of Loans

- Federal Direct Loans
  - Subsidized
  - Unsubsidized
  - PLUS
- Federal Perkins Loans
- Private Loans



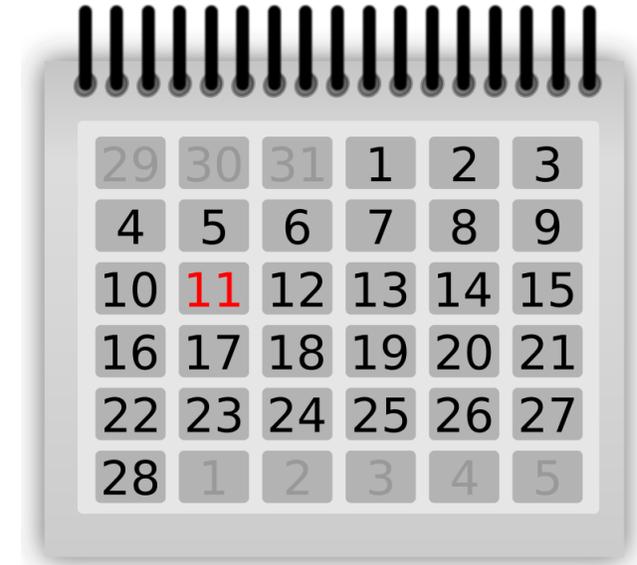
# Education Award: The Basics

Member type	Number of service hours	Award Amount
Full-Time	1700	\$5,730.00
Summer Associate	300	\$1,212.44

- Must complete 12 months of service
- Administered through the MyAmericorps.gov portal
- Valid for education related expenses

# Limits of Use for AmeriCorps

- Available for use for 7 calendar years from the last day in service.
- Lifetime limit of 2 full Education Awards
- Not transferable to dependents



# Ways To Use the Education Award

- Paying Existing Debt
- Paying Future Cost
- Other Uses



# Paying Existing Student Debt



## Federal Loans:

- Given, backed or consolidated through the federal government



## Private Loans

# Paying Future Education Costs



- Traditional Uses
  - Tuition & Fees
- There are many colleges or universities that match the education award
- Must be a Title IV institution

# Paying Future Education Costs

Expenses are factored into “cost of attendance”

- Supplies
  - Books
  - Equipment
- Cost of Living
  - Rent
  - Food
  - Transportation



# Paying Future Education Costs

What	Cost
Tuition	\$4,000
Fees	\$500
Books	\$700
Total	\$5,200
Financial Aid Package	\$5,000
Education Award Payment	\$1,200
Refund	(\$1,000)

# Paying Future Education Costs

As long as it's through a Title IV institution.....



Enrichment Classes



Trade Schools

# Paying Future Education Costs

As long as it's through a Title IV institution.....



You can even study abroad!

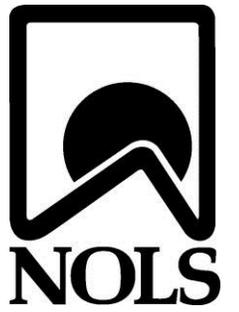
# National Outdoor Leadership School



VISTA alum Rob Cox

- Enrolled via a Title IV institution
- <http://www.nols.edu/financialaid/americansteps.shtml>

# National Outdoor Leadership School



Rob used his  
Education Award  
for a 21 Day Baja  
Coastal Sailing  
Course

# Initiate a Payment Request

HOME

## My AmeriCorps

- Applicant Home
- My Tax Statements
- My Education Award
  - Create Forbearance Request
  - Create Interest Payment Request
  - Create Education Award Payment Request
- My Service Letter
- Contact My AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps Service Date: 08/24/2009  
Available Balance: \$322.29  
\* Payment Type:  ?  
\* Amount Authorized:  ?

---

**Institution Information** ([Search for Institutions](#)) ?

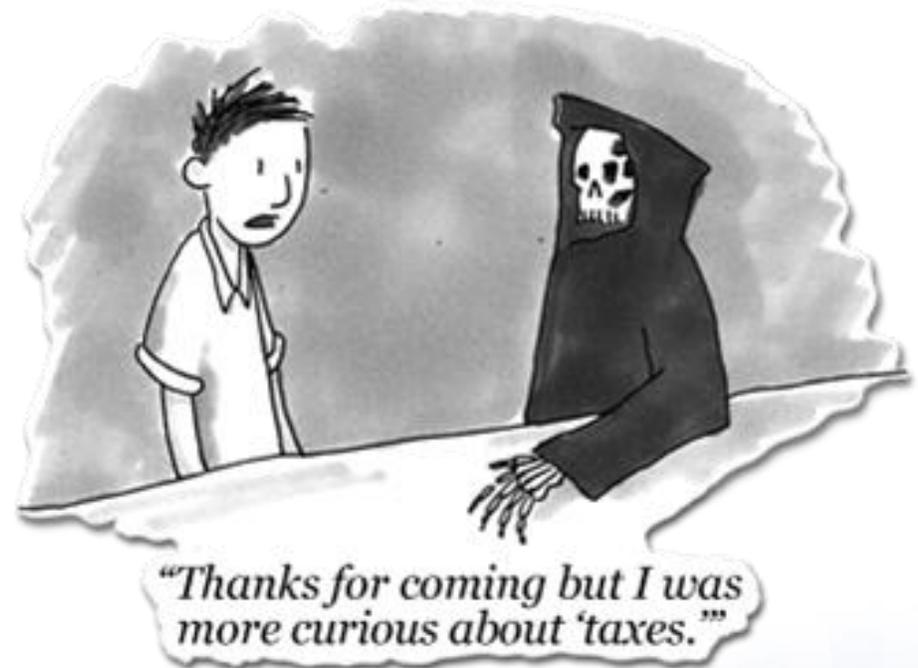
Please select an institution to send this request to by clicking the "Search Institutions" link above.

---

**Certify and Submit** ?

# Tax Liability

- The Education Award is subject to income tax:
  - For the amount that was used
  - In the year it is used



# 1099- MISC Form

- A 1099-MISC form posts to my.americorps.gov by Jan 31<sup>st</sup> each year when \$600 + is used.

PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone no.		1 Rents	OMB No. 1545-0115	<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>
		\$	<b>2014</b>	
		2 Royalties	Form 1099-MISC	
PAYER'S federal identification number		\$	4 Federal income tax withheld	<b>Copy 1 For State Tax Department</b>
		3 Other income	\$	
PAYER'S federal identification number		5 Fishing boat proceeds	6 Medical and health care payments	
RECIPIENT'S identification number		\$	\$	
RECIPIENT'S name		7 Nonemployee compensation	8 Substitute payments in lieu of	

# Federal Education Tax Credits

- Hope Scholarship Tax Credit
- Lifetime Learning Tax Credit
- American Opportunity Tax Credit



# Managing Student Loans

- Loan Forbearance
- Loan Deferment
- Public Service Forgiveness Program
- Income Based Repayment



# Poll Question



Are your loans in forbearance or  
deferment yet?

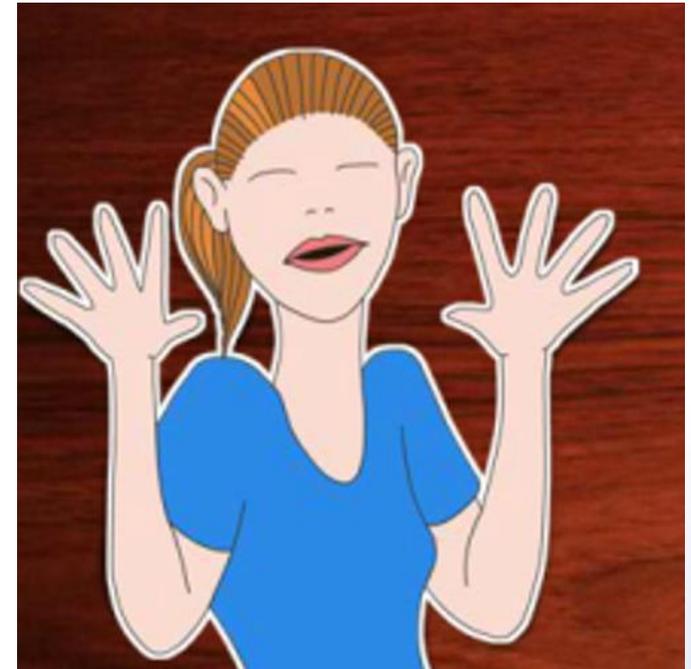
# National Service Loan Forbearance



- Allows you to temporarily postpone making federal student loan payments.

# Which Loans Qualify for Forbearance?

- Most Federal Loans
  - except Parent PLUS and Perkins
- Consider consolidating loans that don't qualify
- Ask private lenders if they offer some other type of deferment



# Benefits of Forbearance

- No monthly payments during forbearance
- Interest accrued during forbearance will be paid by CNCS
  - must be requested after your service year
  - are taxable income
  - are in addition to the Education Award



# Forbearance Limits



- Must choose the Education Award
- Not available during extensions
- Forfeited if service term is incomplete
  - Accrued interest due

# Request Forbearance or Interest Payment

HOME

## My AmeriCorps

- Applicant Home
- My Living Allowance
- My Tax Statements
- My Education Award
  - + Create Forbearance Request**
  - + Create Interest Accrual Request
  - + Create Education Award Payment Request
- My Service Letter
- Events
- Search Events
- My Resources
- Contact My AmeriCorps

### My Education Award

From this page, you can manage your Segal AmeriCorps Education Award requests, view your award balances, and view any previous payments that were made on your behalf. To create new requests, use the links to the left or click on the picture to the right.

[Click here for help.](#)

**Member Functions**

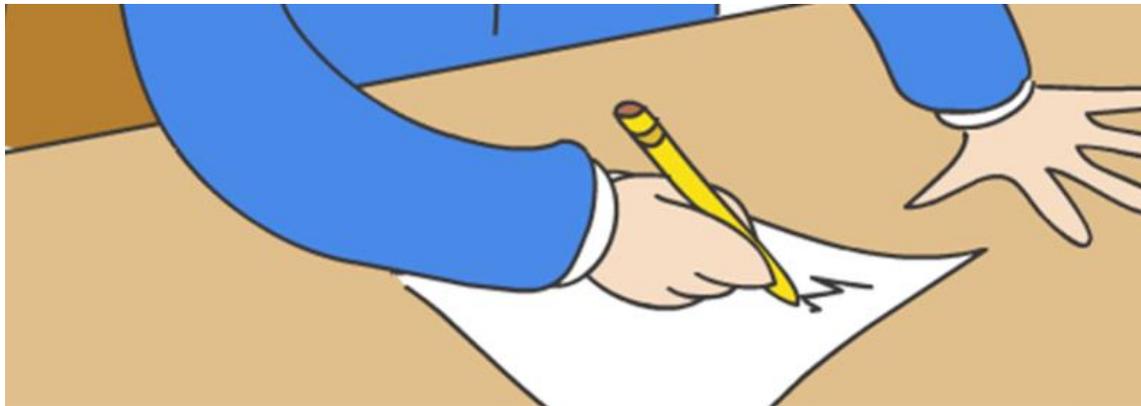
**Forbearance**

Request	Status ?	Cr
Forbearance	Accepted by Institution	

- If your lender is not listed, click “Institution not found”

# How to submit a paper request

- Available through the National Service Hotline upon request, but takes significantly longer to process.





# Options for 3-term VISTAs

	1. Cash stipend	2. "Zero" value Education Award
End-of-service benefit	\$1,500	\$0
National Service Loan Forbearance		
Interest accrual payment		

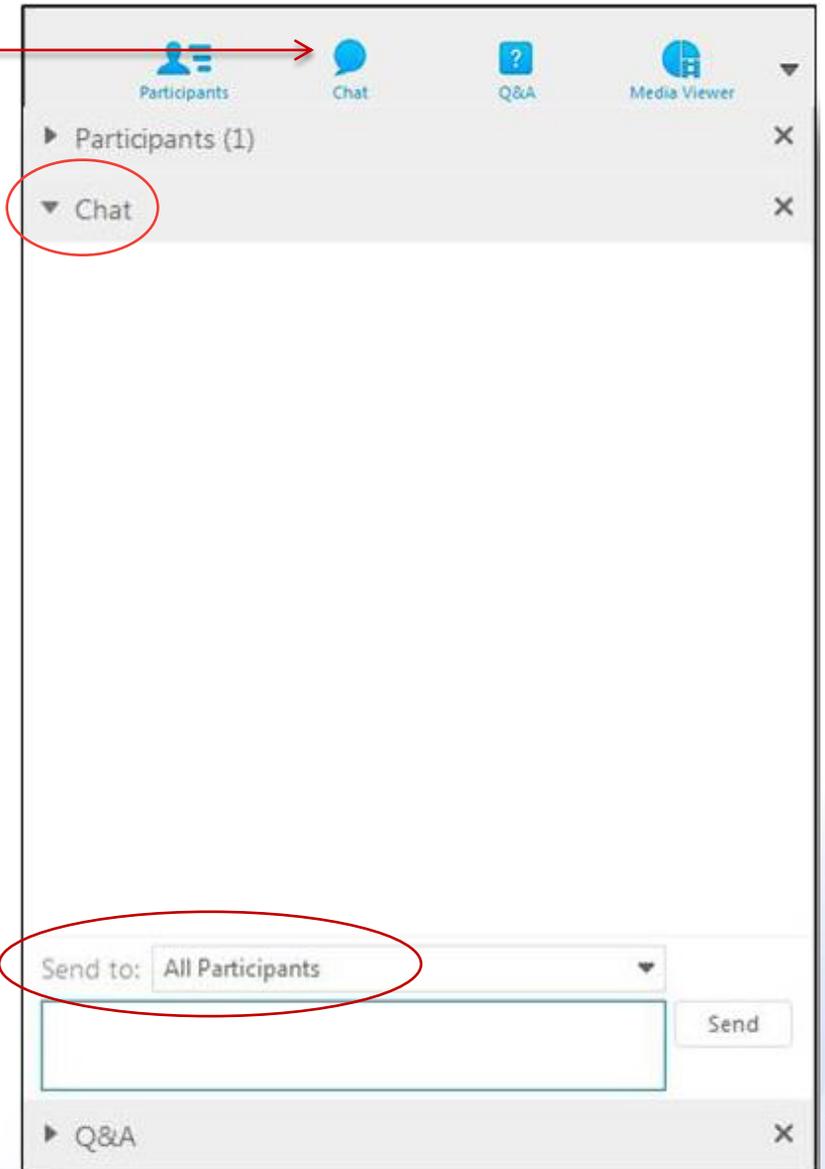
# What is Loan Deferment?

	Deferment	Forbearance
Loan Type	Private Loans	Federal Direct Loans
Request through	Private Lender	My AmeriCorps.gov
Interest Accrual Payment		

# Chat Question

Are you interested in a public sector career one day? If so, share what types of careers interest you?

Click this button if you don't see the chat panel.



# What is Public Service Loan Forgiveness?

	
Federal Direct Loans	Federal Perkins Private Loans

100% of your remaining balance is forgiven after:

- 120 on-time full monthly payments made while employed by a public service organization
- Payments don't need to be consecutive

# Qualifying Public Service Employment

- Full-time employment only
  - Local, state, and federal government organizations
  - Nonprofit organizations
  - Public education, school library, and other school-based services

# Public Service Employment Examples

- Emergency management
- Military Service
- Public Safety
- Law Enforcement
- Public Health Services
- Public Law Services
- Early Childhood Education



# Applying for PSLF



1. Download the Employment Certification Form from FedLoan Servicing:
  - Submit annually and when you change jobs
2. VISTA Service counts!
  - Submit form to the VMSU for certification
3. After your 120th qualifying payment, submit the PSLF application

# What is Income Based Repayment (IBR)?



- Federal Direct Loans



- Federal Perkins
- Private Loans

- Adjusts your monthly loan payment as a fixed percentage of your income.
- Balance forgiven after 25 years

# Income Based Repayment

- Payment amount – 10-15% of discretionary income
- EXAMPLE: \$30,000 salary
  - Original loan payments= \$250 per month
  - Payments with IBR= \$102 per month
- StudentLoans.gov
  - Online Repayment Estimator Tool

# Income Based Repayment

- Qualification: must have a partial financial hardship

## Pro's / Con's

- + Monthly payments are lower
- More interest accrues



# Making The Most of Your Benefits



# During Service:

- ✓ Apply for the IBR program and get your monthly payments down to a minimum.
- ✓ Apply for forbearance while in service.
- ✓ Consider a “zero” value award for 3<sup>rd</sup> VISTA term

# After Service:

- ✓ Maintain tax records, pay stubs and loan statements.
- ✓ Schedule your IBR payment each month using your education award.
- ✓ After 120 payments working in the public sector, submit your balance to PSLF to be forgiven!

# If You Have Perkins Loans

When balance is at least \$37,000:

- Select cash stipend
- Put loan in deferment
- At completion of VISTA term
  - 15% of Perkins loan is forgiven
  - Dept. of Education pays interest



Not eligible for  
IBR or PSLF.

stories to learn by



Trent wants to control his loan debt so he can teach school.  
How can he pay down his monstrous student loan on a teacher's salary?



Trent



Ayesha



Lee



Jade



Marc



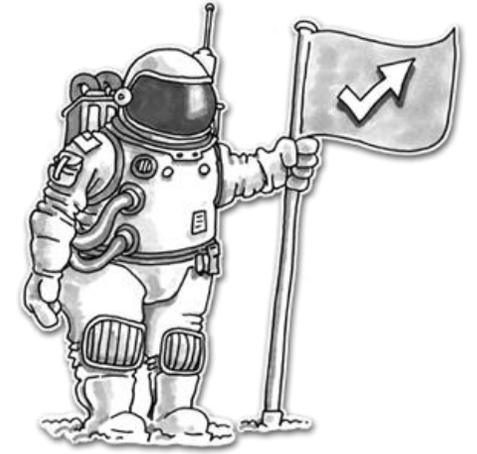
Dolores



Marvin

[www.nationalservicerresources.gov/edaward](http://www.nationalservicerresources.gov/edaward)

# Next Steps



1. Know what specific type of loan(s) you have.
2. Explore the Education Award website
3. Check with your lender if you haven't already placed your loan in forbearance or deferment.
4. Explore Income Based Repayment and Public Service Loan Forgiveness.
5. Make sure your lender is listed on [my.americorps.gov](http://my.americorps.gov)

# Evaluation

- Please take a few moments to share your feedback through the quick poll on the right side of the screen.
- How can we improve these sessions? What topics should we include in future webinars?
- Thank you very much for your time and participation!

# Questions?

1. Using the Education Award
2. Loan Forbearance/Deferment
3. PSLF/ IBR
4. Open Questions

To ask electronically:

To call in: dial \*1

Participants (2) x

Chat x

Q&A x

All (0)

Ask: All Panelists

Send

# Thank You for Your Participation!

If you have further questions or for more information, contact us: [VISTAwebinars@cns.gov](mailto:VISTAwebinars@cns.gov)

## Our next webinar: Innovative Volunteer Recruitment

July 22, 2015  
2:00pm Eastern

*Visit the Webinars for VISTAs page on the VISTA Campus for a complete schedule of VISTA webinars*