Webinars for AmeriCorps VISTAs

Life After AmeriCorps: The Importance of Strategic Networking

To join the audio portion, please dial:
888-390-1187, passcode: 2383632.
This session will begin shortly.

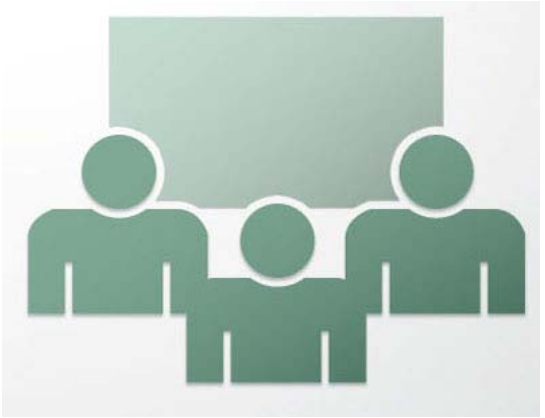
Corporation for National & Community Service

AmeriCorps VISTA
Volunteers In Service To America

Tips For Participating

Webinars for AmeriCorps VISTAs

- Submit questions to the presenter at any time using the Q&A feature.
- Share tips, resources, and ideas with other attendees using the Chat feature.
- The phone line will be open later in the presentation for Questions and Answers.



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Welcome to

Life After AmeriCorps: The Importance of Strategic Networking

Corporation for National & Community Service

VISTA
Volunteers In Service To America

Today's Team

Elizabeth L. Matthews
VISTA Alumni Outreach and Support Specialist, CNCS

Suzanne Knizner

Robyn Stegman

Project Specialists
Campaign Consultation, Inc.

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Today's Agenda

- What is networking? Why do you need to be strategic?
- Types of strategies – what works for you?
- Case studies
- About AmeriCorps Alums – how to use this network
- Q&A

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Today's Presenter

Ben Duda

Co-Executive Director AmeriCorps Alums

NCCC ('00, '01)

Citizen Schools ('03)

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What is Networking?

- Building relationships with people working in your field of interest to help advance your career

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Adam Grant's Philosophy

- Givers look for people's potential
- Add value to others' lives

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Three Strategies

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Strategy 1: Events and Influencers

- Increase your visibility
- Connect with key players in your sector / space / issue
- Stay on top of industry trends

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Strategy 2: Value of Close Relationships

- Personal friendships, significant others, family members
- Genuine connections increase desire to help out

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Strategy 3: Find Your "Inner" Extrovert

- Practice makes perfect
- Step outside your comfort zone for the benefit of your career

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Poll: Which of these makes you the most nervous?

Events and Influencers

Close Relationships

Inner Extrovert

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Rachel Roberts

VISTA ’13, Habitat for Humanity, International

Current Position:
Biological Science Technician at the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior

Cultivated Area of Experience:
Endangered Species Management. Manages the breeding, hatching, and migration of endangered Whooping Cranes at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

“The huge amount of trust and responsibility I was granted in my role as a VISTA gave me the confidence and resilience I needed to never give up the pursuit of my dream job.”

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VISTA Pathways: Case Studies

"There's An Alum For That"

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Marchelli Hill

VISTA ’09, Community Services and Employment Training

Current Position:
Community Involvement Coordinator for the city of Houston

Cultivated Area of Experience:
Learned communication and public speaking skills, how to build a consensus and facilitate a group, and developed proficiencies in strategic planning and community organizing.

“My AmeriCorps experience helped me develop a particular set of skills that I use on a daily basis and were instrumental in helping me obtain my current position with the city of Houston.”

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Andriana Bicanin

VISTA ’09, WA State Employment Security Department
VISTA ’11 Asset Building Collaborative of North Carolina
Americorps ’12, Generations Incorporated

Current Position:
Graduate Student, Masters in Social Justice & Human Rights

Cultivated Area of Expertise:
Studying housing justice, incarceration and prison reform, immigration, city and state governmental abuse.

“AmeriCorps is instrumental to my ability to adapt to different communities, cultures, backgrounds, and lifestyles, creating my success in graduate school.”

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Melissa Simmermaker

VISTA ’09, ‘10

Current Position:
Iowa Reading Corps AmeriCorps Program Manager with United Way of Iowa

Cultivated Area of Expertise:
Took on a staff role at the Iowa Commission and became the Des Moines AmeriCorps Alums Chapter Leader.

“Experience effectively taught me to approach each new endeavor as an opportunity to learn and grow as both a professional and a human being.”

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Kristin Ginger

VISTA ’09

Current Position:
Communications Coordinator at Women Employed

Cultivated Area of Expertise:
Current role connects service experience with refugee resettlement and passion for advocacy and writing.

“For all of its ups and downs, and there were plenty of both, my VISTA year helped me realize that the only way I would be happy is if I was working for an organization with primarily altruistic goals.”

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Reflection Questions

- Think about where you'd like your AmeriCorps VISTA experience to take you in the future.
- What's the next step on that path?
- How could networking help you meet your goal?

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About AmeriCorps Alums

Builds a dynamic network of engaged citizens and social impact leaders by accelerating the potential developed through national service.

We are the only national network that connects the nearly one million alumni of all AmeriCorps programs to resources that support a commitment to a lifetime of service.

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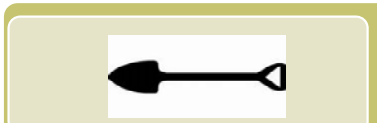
What We Do: 5 Priority Areas

Networking

Professional Development

Educational Opportunities


Service

Voice

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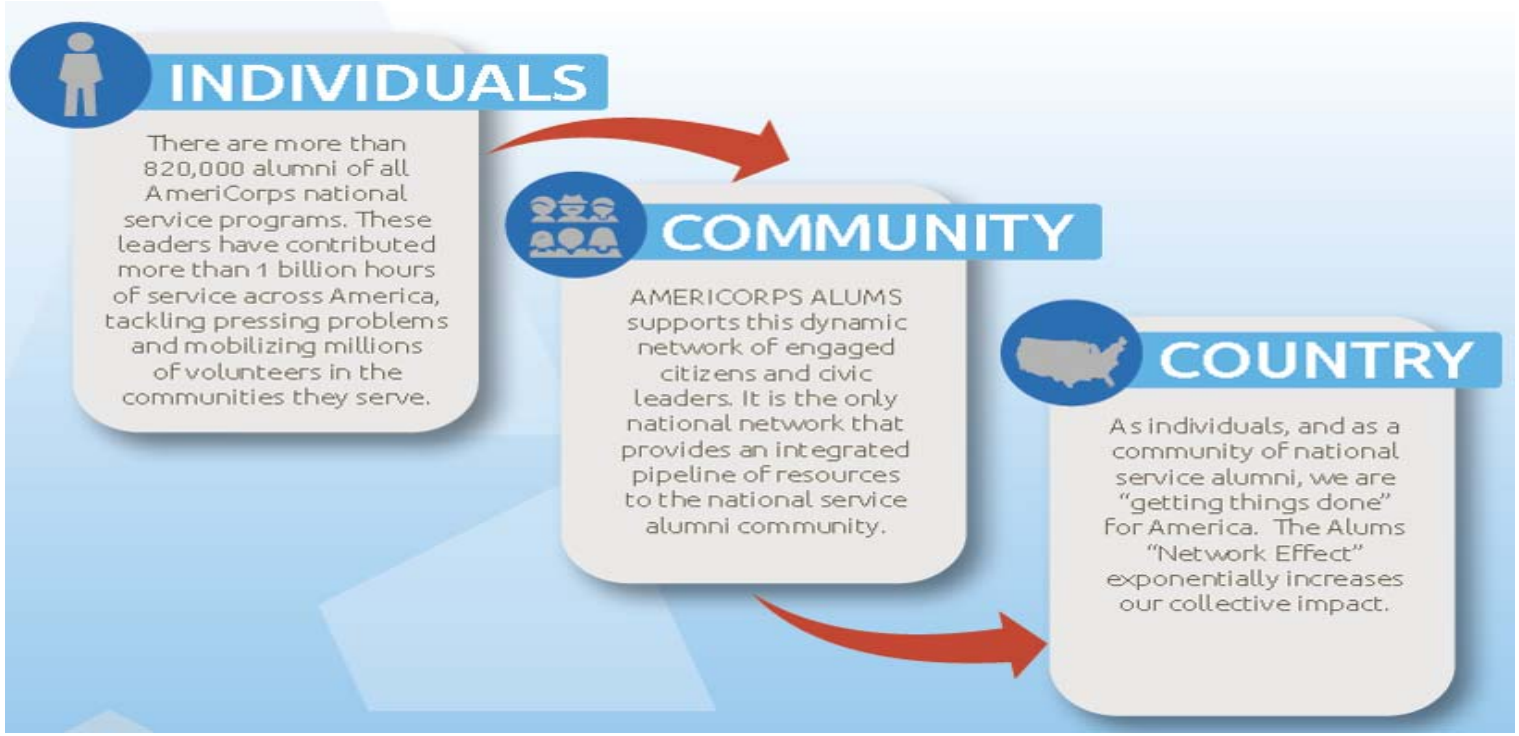
What We Do: The Alums Network Effect

AmeriCorps Alums builds a community of engaged citizens and civic leaders that gets things done for America.



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Where We Are

- 80 chapters in 38 states
  - Social Capital
  - Service
  - Leadership & Professional Development

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Chapter Programming

Unique opportunities to engage local chapters of AmeriCorps Alums and the surrounding AmeriCorps community

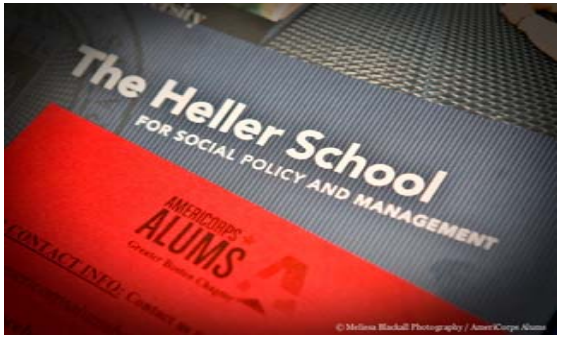
DC: Grad School Event

Atlanta: Grad School Forum

Miami: Grad School Event

Sacramento: Networking Event

New Hampshire: Team Building Event



Boston: Brandeis University Event

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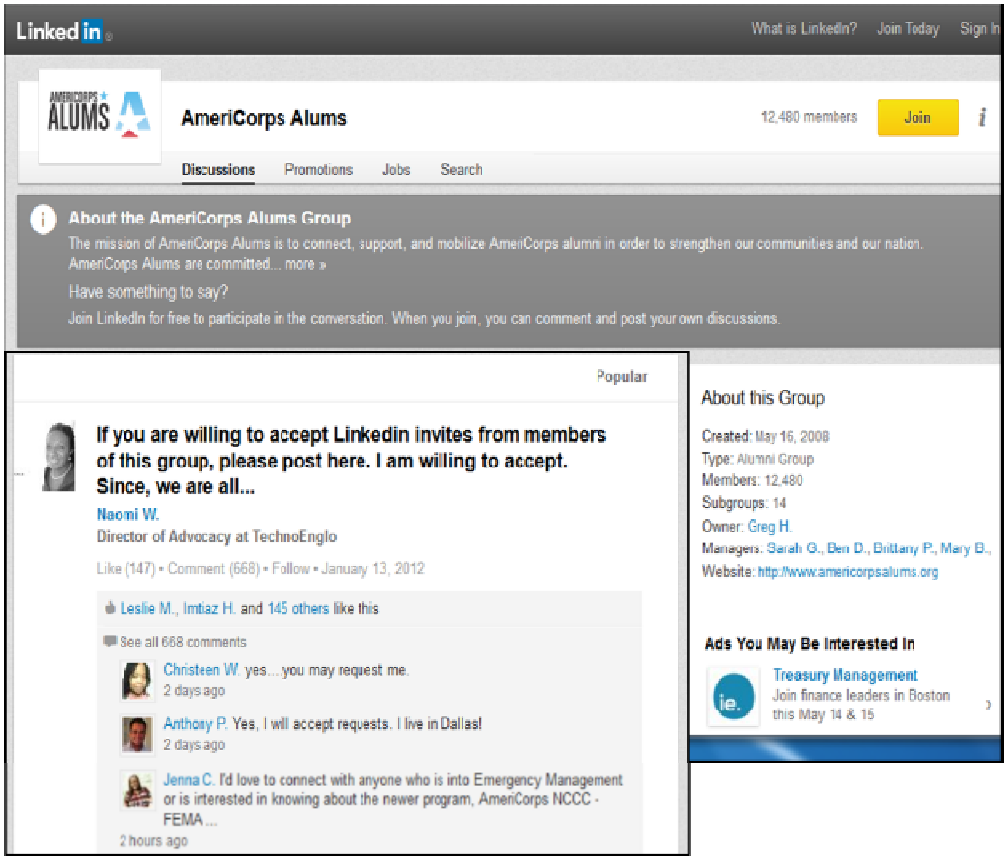
Where We Are Online



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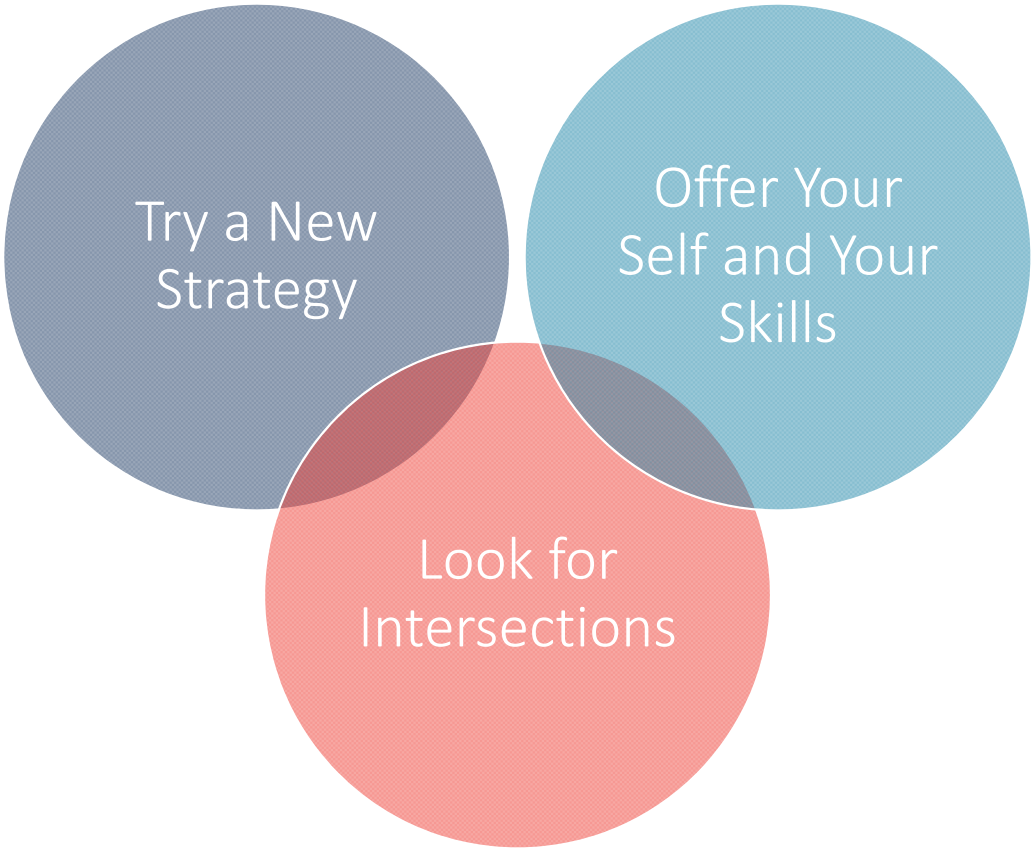
Three “Next Steps” in Networking



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Raise Your Hand for Q&A

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LinkedIn – AmeriCorps VISTA

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Evaluation

Webinars for AmeriCorps VISTAs

Please take a few moments to share your feedback. How can we improve these sessions? What topics should we include in future webinars?

Thank you very much for your time and participation!

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Thank You for Your Participation!

Webinars for AmeriCorps VISTAs

If you have further questions or for more information, contact us: VISTAwebinars@cns.gov

How to Design and Run an Effective Meeting

April 23, 2014

2-3:30 PM ET

Visit the Ongoing Learning page on the VISTA Campus for a complete schedule of VISTA webinars.

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