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.
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.
Welcome to
Life After AmeriCorps: The Importance of Strategic Networking
Today’s Team

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

Suzanne Knizner
Project Specialists

Robyn Stegman
Campaign Consultation, Inc.
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
Adam Grant’s Philosophy

- Givers look for people’s potential
- Add value to others’ lives
Three Strategies
Strategy 1: Events and Influencers

• Increase your visibility

• Connect with key players in your sector / space / issue

• Stay on top of industry trends
Strategy 2: Value of Close Relationships

- Personal friendships, significant others, family members
- Genuine connections increase desire to help out
Strategy 3: Find Your “Inner” Extrovert

• Practice makes perfect

• Step outside your comfort zone for the benefit of your career
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.”
VISTA Pathways: Case Studies

"There's An Alum For That"
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.”
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.”
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.”
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?
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.
What We Do: 5 Priority Areas

- Networking
- Professional Development
- Educational Opportunities
- Service
- Voice
What We Do: The Alums Network Effect

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

INDIVIDUALS
There are more than 820,000 alumni of all AmeriCorps national service programs. These leaders have contributed more than 1 billion hours of service across America, tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers in the communities they serve.

COMMUNITY
AmeriCorps Alums supports this dynamic network of engaged citizens and civic leaders. It is the only national network that provides an integrated pipeline of resources to the national service alumni community.

COUNTRY
As individuals, and as a community of national service alumni, we are “getting things done” for America. The Alums “Network Effect” exponentially increases our collective impact.

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Where We Are

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

- Try a New Strategy
- Offer Your Self and Your Skills
- Look for Intersections
Raise Your Hand for Q&A

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LinkedIn – AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) is the national service program that works to eliminate poverty. The first VISTAs began serving in 1965 in the migrant farm worker camps.

Recent Updates

AmeriCorps VISTA Have you recently completed your AmeriCorps VISTA service, or will complete your service as of March 20, 2014? Are interested in working with VISTA? If so, then the VISTA Member Support Unit (VMSU) is looking for you! http://linkd.in/4l8NFI8

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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!
Thank You for Your Participation!

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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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