



Project GRAD Knoxville of Knox Education Foundation
KnoxEd Innovation VISTA



AmeriCorps

Dates of Service: August 2021 – August 2022
Partner: Knox Education Foundation
Location of Service: 912 S. Gay Street L210 Knoxville, TN 37902
Supervisor: Janine Al-Aseer, Director of Innovation Programs

About CAC AmeriCorps:

Established in 1994, CAC AmeriCorps is a national service program that combines elements of traditional conservation practice with community action that informs our work and places it in the broader context of the region. CAC AmeriCorps members serve to improve public lands, streams and greenways, educate the public, meet immediate human needs, eliminate barriers to employment, contribute to healthier lifestyles, and build volunteer capacity to enhance the ability of our partners to get things done. We are committed to human and environmental justice in our communities through enduring acts of service.

About Knox Education Foundation: <https://knoxed.org/>

Knox Education Foundation is a group of educators, business, and community leaders who support Knox County Public Schools. Through advocacy, investment, community resources and programs that empower every student to excel, we are focused on supporting 'college and career.' We place equal emphasis on industry preparedness, workforce development, and higher education preparation. Founded in 2020 to serve as the fundraising and administrative arm of three core initiatives, Knox Education Foundation strives to be a catalyst for change and tackle some of education's most pressing challenges. Some flagship initiatives for Knox Ed include Community Schools (providing holistic services to families from schools), Project Grad (college and career readiness initiatives for students in middle, high, and early college), and Innovation strategies such as Leaders for Readers (a volunteer Literacy initiative to ensure 3rd grade reading proficiency), TeacherPreneur/PrincipalPreneur (piloting innovative education strategies from Knox County teachers and principals), and spearheading the first Diverse Teacher Residency in East Tennessee.

Position Summary:

The Innovation VISTA will build capacity for Knox Ed Innovation to further its mission of

The VISTA position will build community relationships, identify community needs, research best practices in education, and assist in the implementation of innovation initiatives. This position will also help design and evaluate Knox Ed Innovation programming and assist in the development of communication strategies. With oversight from members of Knox Ed's Innovation team, this member will be exposed to a plethora of community and business organizations in Greater Knox County while balancing a portfolio of independent research work to inform future practice.

This position will give great experience with project design and evaluation, research, community empowerment, and experience with public education advocacy.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Interest in public education with a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion - Positive and Solutions-focused
- Ability to flexibly pivot between projects to balance varied, changing needs
- Proactive and comfortable working independently on projects

- Consistently maintains timely communication

Member Benefits Include:

- A modest living allowance of \$13,399.15, or, \$513.94 bi-weekly (pre-tax), paid over 52 weeks
- Choice of an Education Award of \$6,195, that can be applied to student loans and/or future education expenses, or an End-of-Service Cash Stipend of \$1,800
- A one year End-of-Service Non-Competitive Eligibility for employment in the federal government.
- Healthcare benefits
- Child Care Reimbursement
- May be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In-house SNAP benefits specialist available to provide assistance in determining eligibility
- May be eligible for utility bill assistance. In house specialists are available to provide assistance with determining eligibility
- Staff assistance with identifying housing. Housing, inclusive of utilities, is generally between \$300-\$450 in a shared house/apartment scenario
- Professional development and networking opportunities
- Through partnership with Carson-Newman University, members are eligible for a 20% discount on tuition for Carson-Newman's online Masters in Business Administration – Non-Profit Management degree. With discount, two years of service and 2 Education awards cover the tuition for the MBA.
- Click [HERE](#) to see full list of AmeriCorps VISTA benefits

Equity and Inclusion:

The Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will take action to ensure that employees are treated equally without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap, cultural or religious convictions. CAC AmeriCorps provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodation at any point in the employment process.