



**Campus Compact**  
Maryland-DC

**Special points of interest:**

- Last summer, MDCCC was gifted a house!
- MDCCC now has 36 member institutions across MD and DC
- MDCCC will be a part of #Giving Tuesday this Dec
- MDCCC has 22 AmeriCorps VISTA members

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# MDCCC AmeriCorps VISTA Alumni



Volume I, Issue I

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## Message from the MDCCC AmeriCorps VISTA Leader

Greetings from Maryland-DC Campus Compact!

We here at MDCCC hope that this newsletter finds you all well. As the MDCCC AmeriCorps VISTA leader this year, I am happy to share with you that our current cohort of MDCCC VISTAs across Maryland and our nation's capitol are representing our mission well through their varied anti-poverty projects.

Please visit our website to see what projects our current MDCCC VISTAs are working on, and like us on Facebook to see photos from recent site visits I made. You should be proud of the continued impact of your efforts from your time serving as MDCCC VISTA members.

I'd love to share a couple of updates with you. Each summer, MDCCC brings together all of the MDCCC AmeriCorps VISTA members for an

orientation at Hood College in Frederick, MD. This year, the members participated in a community service project in partnership with a United Way day camp, helping to clean up a local farm.

In addition, we are planning to have a first-ever MDCCC VISTA happy hour in the spring and hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us to re-unite with old friends and make new connections as we reminisce about our past service and celebrate achievements together.

In Service,  
Kathryn Brothers  
MDCCC AmeriCorps VISTA Leader



**MDCCC AmeriCorps VISTAs Aisha Abdullah and Kathleen Kelleher do a service project with United Way Service Camp participants at the annual MDCCC VISTA orientation in Frederick, MD in June.**

## National Campus Compact Update

During the 2015-2016 academic year, Campus Compact will celebrate its 30th anniversary, culminating with a national conference in March, 2016. The conference is called "Accelerating Change: Engagement for Impact."

Accompanying this 30th anniversary, Campus Compact has organized a Presidents' Summit. At the summit,

presidents and chancellors will affirm an Action Statement announcing a set of commitments to apply the principles articulated in the Presidents' Declaration on the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education.

[Click here for more information.](#)





**MDCCC's new Associate Director of Programs, Meg Rego**

## AmeriCorps Alum now Associate Director of Programs

Meg Rego, our new Associate Director of Programs, comes to MDCCC from American University (AU) in Washington, DC where she has spent the past four years as the Program Coordinator for Community-Based Learning in the Center for Community Engagement and Service.

She facilitated the dramatic expansion of AU's service-learning program to include a course designation, student leadership program, and an annual faculty fellows institute.

Throughout her four years at AU, Meg has been active with MDCCC, serving each year on planning committees for conferences and retreats. This past year, Meg chaired the 2015 Service-Learning and Civic Engagement (SLCE) Conference, shifting the conference to DC for the first time in its eight year tenure and expanding conference attendees.

Meg has hit the ground running at MDCCC, jumping right into managing the VISTA grant along

with innumerable other tasks. MDCCC is thankful she is part of the team.

Meg spent her AmeriCorps year at a community development corporation in Rhode Island where she managed an after school enrichment program and served as an advocate for low-income children in their schools.

*"I love this work because I know that VISTA members have so much potential to improve the communities where they serve and have highly meaningful personal experiences."*

**Laura Rothlisberger**



**Laura during her MDCCC VISTA service in 2009.**

## MDCCC VISTA Alum Appointed VISTA Program Officer in Utah

Laura Rothlisberger ('09) served as MDCCC AmeriCorps VISTA at Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring from August 2008-August 2009. In her role, she helped to develop the Service-Learning Collaborative between Montgomery College and Montgomery County Public Schools, a program that brings together first generation college students with public school English Language Learner students to participate in service-learning projects. The partnership started by Laura is still impacting many students.

As students participated in service-learning opportunities in the community, they developed natural mentoring relationships and also became more connected to the community. In addition, it helped the public school students meet Maryland's service-learning graduation requirement.

Laura will always remember one Saturday morning in October of 2008 when the high

school and college students participated in a community street cleanup activity. Many immigrant students were helping to sweep gutters and weed flowerbed gardens alongside established members of the Takoma Park community. She remembers one community member remarking, "You folks make good neighbors." This community member then became very involved with making a community garden for the students. "It was just amazing to see the community accept these immigrant students with open arms of gratitude and welcome," Laura comments.

After completing her year of service, Laura continued working at Montgomery College in the Student Life Office where she had served as an MDCCC VISTA. She then attended graduate school to get a master's in public administration. Had she not served as a VISTA with MDCCC, she would not have known about this degree program, or been as

competitive an applicant. After finishing her MPA, Laura found a position with the Corporation for National and Community Service as a Program Officer in the Utah field office where oversees VISTA programs and members in that state.

Of her current position, Laura says, "I love this work because I know that VISTA members have so much potential to improve the communities where they serve and have highly meaningful personal experiences."

When asked to give advice to current VISTAs, she says that she encourages AmeriCorps VISTA members to savor their VISTA experience. VISTA service is a unique opportunity to learn about a community, the people who live there, and yourself. She also highly encourages VISTAs to write in a journal to reflect on their service experience and remember it for years to come.

## Donation Increases MDCCC's Impact

MDCCC is able to operate in part thanks to the AmeriCorps grant from the federal government, but also in part to our donors.

One of our most generous and sustained supporters is Dr. Alan Penczek, a former professor of philosophy at Stevenson University. Dr. Penczek introduced Stevenson to the idea of integrating service-learning into academic courses, and saw the value to both students and community partners.

Having been a part of the service-learning community in Maryland from the very beginning, Penczek chose the Maryland-DC Campus Compact as a worthy organization to donate to over the years.

This past spring, he increased his contribution to the Compact enabling MDCCC to bring a new staff member on board to work with partnerships, development, and communication.

On top of this generosity, Alan Penczek donated MDCCC's first ever gift of property, in the form of a house. This amazing gift forms a base of non-operational reserve funds to create a more financially stable future, the value of which cannot be expressed adequately.

A huge thank you goes out to Alan Penczek for his belief in our mission and his contribution to help us realize it.



**Dr. Alan Penczek and MDCCC Executive Director Madeline Yates at the closing of the house sale.**

## Goucher College's Futuro Latino Center Still Going Strong

The achievements and growth of the Futuro Latino Learning Center at Goucher College demonstrate what a remarkable and sustainable impact a single MDCCC AmeriCorps VISTA project can have on an entire community.

Aware of the growing Latino population in the northern Baltimore County area where Goucher College is located, faculty and staff members decided to launch a program to address some of the needs of this community. The College applied for an AmeriCorps VISTA position through MDCCC, and hired Goucher graduate Amy Nigh ('10), who worked in the Office of Community-Based Learning to develop a partnership between the college's Department of Hispanic Languages, Literatures and Cultures, other service organizations in the Greater Baltimore area, and the Latino community. The result was the Futuro Latino Learning Center, which now draws around 80 participants each week who come to improve their English and computing skills. All of the

classes are taught by Goucher students.

When the center opened in 2009, it offered three levels of English as a Second Language courses and has since expanded to five. Computer literacy in Spanish is also an important part of the curriculum. There are cultural activities throughout the day for children while parents are in class. The center attracts members from the broader immigrant community, with participants from Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

The Futuro Latino Center was doing so well that in 2012,

Frances Ramos-Fontán was hired as director of the center. Hitting the ground running, she received an Innovation Grant in 2013. This grant allowed her to recruit students to record the stories of some of the participants and subsequently archive these stories in Goucher's library. A passionate leader in the college and community, Ramos-Fontán says, "The dream is for other institutions to get to know what we are doing and to open up their campuses." This year the center was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle to help deepen the center's programs.

***"...the dream is for other institutions to get to know what we are doing and to open up their campuses."***  
**Frances Ramos-Fontan,**  
**Director, Futuro Latino Center**



**A group of students and teachers gather at the Futuro Latino Center on Goucher's campus.**



The 2015-16 MDCCC AmeriCorps VISTA members with Executive Director Madeline Yates, and Associate Director of Programs Meg Rego, at orientation in June 2015.

Check us out online at  
mdccc.org  
On Facebook as  
Maryland.DC.Campus.Compact  
Or on Twitter as  
@MarylandDCCC

## MDCCC Participates in #GivingTuesday

The Maryland-DC Campus Compact will participate in #GivingTuesday, an international crowd fundraising campaign. #GivingTuesday follows the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, kicking off the holiday giving season with a global day of charitable giving, combining the power of social media and human generosity around the world to bring about real change in our communities.

Join us in increasing our impact by following our campaign on Twitter and Facebook, and on December 1, help us reach our goal! There are a number of ways that you can get involved, in addition to donating.

The main way you can help us is by sharing. Share our content



on social media, and please share your stories of how MDCCC has impacted your life or someone you know by emailing Karin at [abma@mdccc.org](mailto:abma@mdccc.org).

#GivingTuesday is a day for all of us to give back. No matter

who you are or what stage of life you're in, you can get involved, give to your favorite causes, activate your social network, and make a difference.

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