



STEM AMERICORP/VISTA POSITION

Apply by July 13

Start Date August 25

Position Purpose

The STEM VISTA will work with the Indiana Afterschool Network (IAN) and Indiana Afterschool STEM Taskforce partners to strengthen and expand a coordinated system of science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) training and resources for youth workers and their partners. The VISTA will research, compile, coordinate, promote and expand STEM trainings and resources in regions and statewide.

About Indiana Afterschool Network (IAN)

IAN was created in 1997 with a vision that Indiana is a place where all K-12 have access to high quality learning experiences beyond the school day that prepare them for success in school, work, college and life. IAN serves as a convener, advocate, educator and catalyst to increase funding and resources for programs, strengthen quality programs and staff, increase youth access to programs, and increase connections to education and workforce.

Community Need

STEM is everywhere and shapes our every day lives. Giving youth access to high quality STEM experiences inspires wonder and curiosity about the world around them and fosters an ability to problem-solve, discover and explore. STEM skills are vital for sustaining the innovation capacity of our state and nation, and foundational for successful employment, as more than 80% of future jobs will require STEM skills. Indiana STEM employers estimate that more than 10,000 job openings are unfilled due to a lack of qualified workers (Skills2Compete, 2010). Fewer than half of Indiana's high school graduates are ready for first-year college math and science (Indiana Commission for Higher Education, 2010).

Out-of-school time (OST) programs – academic and enrichment programs that take place beyond school hours – offer a key opportunity to significantly increase youth access to STEM skills and learning. Afterschool and summer programs can add up to 1,080 hours of additional learning to a young person's year, equivalent to the number of hours in 144 school days. Although we have significantly expanded STEM in OST over the past three years, STEM OST programs exist in fewer than half of Indiana's 92 counties

and fewer than 50% of OST programs report offering STEM activities. OST programs cite funding, curriculum, professional development, and partnerships as their primary barriers for STEM implementation.

Job Duties

The VISTA work closely with IAN staff, Indiana Afterschool STEM Taskforce, and community partners for the following:

1. Research, collect and compile information

- a) Reach out and compile information from other statewide afterschool networks about their STEM professional development systems
- b) Gather information from Indiana's youth programs about their training needs
- c) Identify existing curriculum and STEM training opportunities
- d) Create a decision-making tree for programs to decide which STEM curricula best meets their needs
- e) Create IAN webpage of resources and links to training calendars
- f) Identify potential training module topics and experts to expand IAN's new online *Indiana Academy on Out-of-School Learning*

2. Outreach and Communication

- a) Create messaging and communications plan to promote STEM and opportunities for youth workers, programs and youth
- b) Reach out to STEM youth programs and partners to register with IAN mapping database and national STEM Connectory.
- c) Promote training opportunities in STEM newsletter
- d) Support IAN's regional affiliate networks focused on expanding STEM training and resources

3. Partnership Development and Engagement

- a) Meet with interested partners to understand what they offer and explore collaboration opportunities
- b) Assist with planning for Indiana Afterschool STEM Taskforce meetings twice per year
- c) Provide coordination, logistics and leadership for STEM professional development taskforce subcommittee monthly or quarterly
- d) Work with state and local STEM partners to make connections with youth programs
- e) Help identify new funding opportunities and assist with grant writing and management related to professional development

3. Evaluation

- a) Work with the STEM Taskforce Evaluation Team to measure quality and impact of trainings offered
- b) Participate in Harvard's Dimensions of Success (DoS) evaluation project in Indiana

Qualifications

This is a year-long assignment beginning August 1, 2015 and July 30, 2016. Applicant must be willing to commit to a one-year assignment and have the following skills:

- Strong writing, research and analytic skills – including the ability to write reports and convey information to a variety of audiences
- Excellent interpersonal skills, team player and leader
- Ability to facilitate and speak to small and large groups
- Detail-oriented and have the ability to juggle multiple projects
- Go-getter, takes initiative to get things done, and asks questions to gather information
- Passion for our mission to expand learning opportunities for all youth
- Proficient in MS Office Suite
- Bachelor's degree or higher

AmeriCorps VISTA Program Benefits

This is an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer position that provides a modest living allowance and an educational award that can be applied to future educational opportunities or repayment of student loans. Benefits include:

- Stipend: \$11,000
- Choice of \$5,550 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or a \$1,500 End of Service Stipend
- Parking and travel reimbursement outside central Indiana
- Healthcare benefits
- For more information about the VISTA program, go to:
http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/index.asp
- For a complete description, go to:
http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista_benefits.asp

TO APPLY for the position:

<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=53261&fromSearch=true>

Contact:

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