The Jandon Center for Community Engagement at Smith College engages faculty, students and community partners on social-change projects that tackle community-driven goals. The Center works toward advancing social equity and supporting healthy communities through five major program areas: STEM Outreach, Urban Education Initiative, Community Service, Community-Based Learning, and Special Projects.

The Jandon Center is looking to fill a second Campus Compact Southern New England Americorps VISTA who would focus on STEM education at the K-8 McMahon School in Holyoke. The deadline for completing paperwork and getting clearances is November 6th with a start date of November 27, 2017 and ending November 26, 2018, with potential for renewal.

**STEM Outreach VISTA**

The STEM Outreach VISTA member will lead an initiative to promote and augment science education in the McMahon Elementary School (K-8) in Holyoke, MA. With the guidance of the Smith College STEM Outreach Coordinator, the position will coordinate the efforts of school administrators, teachers, parents, and community organizations to build an innovative STEM delivery model with the project’s goals in mind. The intention is to use the concept of culturally or socially relevant science education as a mechanism to better engage students. The AmeriCorps*VISTA will connect with mentoring programs and student organizations supporting first-generation and underrepresented groups in STEM.

**About Campus Compact of Southern New England (CCSNE) and AmeriCorps VISTA:**

CCSNE is a coalition of college and universities in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island dedicated to advancing the public purpose of higher education. CCSNE VISTA members serve in a corps of 70 placed-on-campus host sites in the tri-state region. The goal is to build the capacity of campuses and their school and community-based partners to improve educational outcomes for youth and students living in poverty. CCSNE VISTA members focus their service year on education programs aligned with the Corporation for National Service education priorities in school readiness, K-12 school success and college access and success. In addition to their host site supervisor, CCSNE VISTA members are supported by three program staff and four VISTA leaders based at the regional network office in Boston. More information about serving as a VISTA can be found at: [www.ccsne.compact.org](http://www.ccsne.compact.org). Additional details are available on the CCSNE recruitment page at Americorps.gov.
We seek an organized, energetic person to work with Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School (K-8) teachers, administrators, and community members to assist in the development of a STEM interest and performance augmentation program. The 2015/2016 Massachusetts Department of Education statistics identify over 72% of McMahon students as “high needs” and the spring 2016 MCAS results show that only 13% of 8th graders were found “proficient” or above in science and technology/engineering compared to a state average of 41%. The VISTA member will lead an initiative that will work with the McMahon community and Smith College to assess needs, constraints and, community/school resources in order to develop the aforementioned strategy to improve interest and performance in STEM. We intend to utilize, whenever possible, the concept of culturally or socially relevant science education as a mechanism to better engage students.

**MEMBER DUTIES:** The CCSNE VISTA member will work with the Smith College STEM Outreach Coordinator, McMahon School (Holyoke) teachers, administrators, parents, and community organizations to build an innovative STEM delivery model with the project’s goals in mind. Notably, the AmeriCorps*VISTA will connect with and assist mentoring program(s), support groups, and student organizations supporting first generation and underrepresented groups in STEM. Weekly work assignments will consist of meetings with McMahon’s on-site ELL and science teachers, in addition to other applicable individuals or groups at the school, to devise resources and activities that support the development, testing, and implementation of an engaging STEM program. The primary focus will be on grades 5 through 8. Any and all resulting pilot programs will undergo careful assessment in the hopes of creating a pathway to full program implementation. It is expected that the VISTA will be responsible for ensuring the veracity and success of all assessment and implementation. If, and when, any staff development is proposed, the VISTA member will consult with the McMahon School’s Principal, McMahon’s Administrative Team, and the Director of Professional Learning and Educational Leadership.

**ABOUT CCSNE VISTA:** The CCSNE AmeriCorps VISTA program is a cohort of 50 AmeriCorps VISTA members focused on improving education outcomes for children and students who live in poverty. Each VISTA member sponsored by CCSNE makes a year-long, fulltime commitment to serve at a host site that is either a college or university, school or non-profit organization. In return for their service, CCSNE VISTA members receive a modest living allowance and health benefits during their service. Additionally, they have the option of receiving a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or post-service stipend after completing service. More information about serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA can be found at: [www.ccsne.compact.org](http://www.ccsne.compact.org).

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Demonstrated interest and/or personal commitment to education, community development, and educational concerns in struggling communities. This position will require strong listening skills and communication skills—both written and spoken. We will look for this person to know and understand data collection and be a good organizer. A bachelor’s degree is required. A background in education, urban affairs, public affairs, social work, public policy, social sciences or related fields will be helpful. U.S. citizenship is required. Fluency in Spanish would be very helpful. Experience living or working within a bilingual, urban community strongly preferred. Having a driver’s license and access to a vehicle would make this placement easier logistically.

**PROGRAM BENEFITS:** Bi-weekly living allowance of $509.88 before taxes, health coverage, professional development/training. Transportation assistance to the partner site and access to college meal plan provided. Choice of Education Award ($5,815) or End of Service Stipend ($1,500) upon successful completion of service.

**START AND END DATE OF SERVICE:** November 2017-November 2018

**TO APPLY** send cover letter, resume and three references to:

Denys Candy, Director, Smith College, Jandon Center for Community Engagement, (dcandy@smith.edu), Tom Gralinski, STEM Outreach Coordinator (tgralins@smith.edu) and to Kiana Lane, CCSNE VISTA Leader (klane@compact.org)

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until Monday October 30, 2017. Please note applicants will also need to apply to become an AmeriCorps VISTA member at my.americorps.gov by creating an application and selecting “Smith College - Campus Compact STEM VISTA”