Position Opening: Campus Compact AmeriCorps Member
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, STEM Education Center
For any questions, please contact Kathy Chen, kcchen@wpi.edu

Do you care about K-12 education and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)?

Want to make a difference in Worcester, MA? The STEM Education Center at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is hosting a Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA to build the infrastructure and capacity to sustainably and effectively support PreK-12 students, educators, and families in the greater Worcester County region with equitable access to high-quality, integrated, and inclusive STEM education opportunities. This full-time position is a year-long opportunity starting August 2, 2021.

The AmeriCorps position with the STEM Education Center at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) will build the capacity to pair WPI volunteers with Worcester Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to provide equitable access to engaging high-quality and culturally responsive STEM learning experiences for K-12 students from the Worcester Public Schools. Cultivating and sustaining partnerships between the STEM Education Center and CBOs, and exploring creative collaborations, will help enable a thriving STEM ecosystem in the Worcester and Central MA region. Goals include sustaining a STEM outreach infrastructure for WPI volunteers (including Teacher Preparation Program students) to work effectively with different community non-profits on a consistent basis and to increase the volunteer base at WPI. Hands-on STEM activities, family events and tutoring programs are to be developed. A database of volunteers, trainings, events, and program assessment will also be created. The management of multiple data sets for a variety of functions and stakeholders will build the capacity for WPI to enable transformations in STEM education.

A successful AmeriCorps member should have a high level of interest in the state of public education and racial justice, as well as a passion for closing the opportunity gap in STEM. In this position, the AmeriCorps member will have possibilities to enhance their professional skills while contributing to improved access to STEM higher education for urban public school students through systems-level analysis and collaborative solutions generation. This position requires an Associate’s degree or higher, good communication and interpersonal skills, attention to detail, organization, data gathering and analysis, event planning skills, marketing and social media aptitude, good judgement, high level of adaptability, and the ability to work independently as well as collaboratively as part of a team. This individual will also exhibit a positive attitude, a sense of humor, and an interest to work with students and staff from diverse backgrounds.

Responsibilities:
- Work with the STEM Education Center in supporting high-quality STEM opportunities to Worcester County K-12 students, teachers, and families.
- Maintain a sustainable infrastructure for WPI volunteers to work with local CBOs for enhanced STEM learning.
- Establish STEM tutoring/mentoring opportunities for WPI students at CBOs and K-12 schools.
- Develop a portable Robotics program using existing kits and electronic devices for volunteers to use at K-12 schools and CBOs; create training materials and instruction guides; find WPI volunteers or clubs to facilitate robotics programs.
- Coordinate community service info sessions for WPI student volunteers where CBOs present opportunities in K-12 STEM enrichment opportunities.
- Match appropriate WPI program/group to Worcester organizations for sustainable partnerships.
- Develop a database of volunteers, events, and program assessment.
- Create trainings for volunteers to do K-12 STEM outreach and tutoring in the community.
- Coordinate a Family Engagement event with Head Start and Math Talks for STEM Week 2021.
- Organize a Central MA STEM Network (CMSN) Ecosystem event to explore local businesses supporting paid internships for high school students and teacher externships.
- Develop materials to promote the STEM kits lending library to local K-12 educators.
- Coordinate meetings with key partners at WPI, Worcester Public Schools (WPS), and Worcester CBOs.
- Create marketing and social media plan for STEM events in the community.
- Identify best practices and present recommendations to key WPI staff members.
- Other duties as required to complete the VISTA Assignment Description (VAD) outlined objectives.

**Preferred Qualifications:**
- Experience in creating databases to manage a variety of data
- Experience using Excel spreadsheets and other data management tools
- Ability to analyze and present large sets of data
- Ability to research the literature for best practices for equitable STEM opportunities and prepare key points to present to others
- Experience making flyers and using tools such as Canva, PowerPoint
- Ability to speak other languages
- Ability to work independently
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work on several parallel projects at the same time
- Attention to detail
- Organized

**Stipend and Benefits Provided by AmeriCorps and Campus Compact**
- Bi-weekly living allowance of $542.22
- End of service award* (AmeriCorps member must choose one of two options)
  - Segal AmeriCorps Education Award ($6,345)
  - End-of-Service Cash Stipend ($1,803.10)
- Relocation stipend for candidates moving more than 50 miles ($750)
- Healthcare benefits (AmeriCorps member must choose one of two options)
  - Healthcare allowance for out-of-pocket expenses
  - Basic healthcare coverage
- 10 Days Personal Leave
- 10 Days Sick Leave
- Childcare assistance for children under 13 years of age*
- Student loan forbearance or deferment (depending on lender)
- 1 year of noncompetitive eligibility for federal positions*
- Access to professional development opportunities provided by Campus Compact and AmeriCorps

* Visit this webpage for more information, including eligibility.

**Additional Benefits Provided by WPI**
- Off-campus housing stipend paid directly to landlord or lender; or WPI meal card ($200/month)
- Parking pass
- Access to free or reduced courses
- Access to fitness center
- Access to professional development and training opportunities