

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **VISTA Grant will Help Labor Expand Career Readiness for Idaho Schools**

-Funds to be used to support community career coordinators-

The Idaho Department of Labor is looking for three community coordinators who will help build and expand college and career advising for grades 8–12 in local communities throughout the state.

The positions are being funded through a VISTA grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The project is designed to increase the local community's understanding of its college and career development resources. The three VISTA college and career readiness community coordinators – one each stationed in Boise, Post Falls and Pocatello – will work with area communities, state agencies and stakeholders to promote personal, community and career development for its youth population.

Each community coordinator will work with school districts, educators, counselors and community members to develop a volunteer database of businesses willing to support college and career advising through career fair participation, mentoring, job shadowing and classroom presentations.

The project also has longer-term objectives of developing best practices to continue the work after the grant period.

The program is part of the Idaho Department of Labor's efforts to help schools comply with a law that now requires each district to develop a plan to deliver college and career planning to students in grades 8–12. Schools are also expected to notify parents of the availability of career planning and provide professional development in the area to all staff. The legislation was proposed by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's administration, passed by the Legislature in 2015 and funded by a \$5 million appropriation in 2016.

Recruitment has started for the VISTA positions, which are full-time, one-year commitments scheduled to begin on Oct. 31, 2016. The positions include a living allowance of \$12,370 for one year of service, health care benefits, personal and sick leave and up to \$5,000 school credit.

Details on these positions and how to apply are available online at:

[Boise - https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=69044&fromSearch=true](https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=69044&fromSearch=true)

[Pocatello - https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=69047&fromSearch=true](https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=69047&fromSearch=true)

[Post Falls - https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=69048&fromSearch=true](https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=69048&fromSearch=true)

For questions, contact the Idaho Department of Labor's Career Information unit at [idahocis@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:idahocis@labor.idaho.gov).

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*AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program is the domestic equivalent to the Peace Corps. Not only will you serve to help enhance college and career advising in Idaho, you will become part of a national network of service members who have been eradicating poverty since the 1960s. Learn more about serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA [here](#).*