

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title: <i>Makerspace Coordinator VISTA</i>
Sponsoring Organization: The Education Alliance
Project Name: STEM Works
Project Number: 15VSSWV001
Project Period: 08/05/2017-08/04/2018
Site Name: [Insert School Name] School, [Insert County Name] County
Member Name: [Insert Member's Full Name]
Term of Service: [mm/dd/yyyy – mm/dd/yyyy]
Focus Area: K-12 STEM education

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Project:

The Makerspace Coordinator VISTA will build the capacity of [insert school name] by developing and implementing a “blended” approach to STEM education. The approach will develop STEM-skilled students who are workforce ready and enable communities to move people in [city/county], West Virginia out of poverty. The VISTA will help the school incorporate digital resources for STEM courses, build project-based learning activities, develop a Makerspaces and identify resources. As a result of the VISTA member’s service, staff/community members will be trained on STEM practices; the school will increase effectiveness and implement new innovative STEM processes; and students will complete STEM programs and improve academic performance.

Performance Measures:

G3-3.5: Number of staff and community volunteers that received training (of one or more types)
G3-3.10: Number of organizations reporting that capacity building helped make them more effective
G3-3.11: Number of new systems/business processes or enhancements put in place
ED2: Number of students completing a CNCS-supported education program
ED5: Number of students with improved academic performance in literacy and/or math

Objective 1

Implement a blended (in-person/online) approach for project-based STEM learning that applies new strategies to improve academic performance in STEM (G3-3.11, ED2, ED5).

Member Activities:

- Step 1: Participate in Part I of Blended Learning network training for leadership teams
- Step 2: Participate in Learning Management System (LMS) online course for leadership teams
- Step 3: Complete needs assessment to determine professional develop and resource needs
- Step 4: Work with the leadership team to identify which existing STEM courses/grade levels will be targeted for program integration
- Step 5: Research national best practices in Blended Learning and collect artifacts to enhance blended course
- Step 6: Participate in Part II of Blended Learning network training for leadership teams
- Step 7: Collaborate with leadership team to identify blended course objectives and timeline
- Step 8: Compile and provide staff with digital resources and project-based learning activities to enhance student engagement
- Step 9: Support staff to refine and enhance STEM courses using blended techniques
- Step 10: Evaluate student performance and course effectiveness
- Step 11: Inform the public regarding Blended Learning performance and progress through social media, newsletter and annual report
- Step 12: Share best practices with other leadership teams and Makerspace Coordinators VISTAs

Objective 2

Enhance STEM education utilizing Makerspace tools/resources to improve student engagement and performance, increase the number of staff and community volunteers that receive training, and establish meaningful business partnerships (G3-3.5, G3-3.10, G3-3.11, ED2, ED5).

Member Activities:

- Step 1: Complete needs assessment and participate in Part I of Blended Learning network training for leadership teams
- Step 2: Research national best practices in Maker education and Makerspace development
- Step 3: Explore external organizations' STEM-focus and capacity to partner (business, higher education, community etc.)
- Step 4: Identify a physical location/space for the Makerspace
- Step 5: Work with leadership team to draft a clear, concise and measurable plan for the development of the school's Makerspace
- Step 6: Establish roles and responsibilities for each of the assigned objective to ensure school-wide buy-in and use of the Makerspace
- Step 7: Assist in the communication of the draft plan to stakeholders (administration, staff, students, families, partners) and garner feedback and support
- Step 8: Purchase materials and develop Makerspace
- Step 9: Participate in Part II of Blended Learning network training for leadership teams
- Step 10: Coordinate Makerspace launch (audience, agenda, media coverage, etc.)
- Step 11: Collaborate with the leadership team to identify staff training, student engagement and business partnership objectives and timeline
- Step 12: Develop and provide staff with resources for student engagement and business partnerships
- Step 13: Coordinate training logistics (venue, audience, presenter, materials, etc.)
- Step 14: Provide professional development to staff and community members
- Step 15: Collaborate with the external organization(s) to develop objectives and timelines for partnering
- Step 16: Promote partnership(s) agreement and celebrate collaboration through a public engagement event
- Step 17: Evaluate teacher training, student engagement and business partnership
- Step 18: Network with administrators, educators and partners to identify strengths and weaknesses of the Makerspace and opportunities for improvement
- Step 19: Inform the public regarding Makerspace success and progress through social media, newsletter and annual report
- Step 20: Share best practices with other leadership teams and Makerspace Coordinators VISTAs