



— AN ENGAGE NJ AMERICORPS VISTA PROJECT —

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Launch of ENGAGECorps – a massive statewide AmeriCorps VISTA Project to help students get to and through college and to thrive.

ENGAGECorps members will focus on several strategies based on each campus's particular priorities in supporting students getting to and through college, including by:

- Becoming a [Changebuilders](#) campus that develops 21st century skills through students solving community engaged projects together in teams
- Building institutional capacity to join the growing number of [community resource centers](#) designed to tackle food insecurity, mental health, and other challenging factors in determining student persistence
- Supporting efforts to expand or deepen the impact of tutoring and mentoring programs that are designed to increase high school completion and college access
- Developing or expanding institutions' efforts focused on climate change and environmental stewardship, including by providing crucial supports to neighboring districts' implementation of the new K12 climate change education standards

According to [AmeriCorps.gov](#), VISTA's "build capacity in nonprofit organizations and public agencies to help them more effectively generate the commitment of private sector resources, encourage volunteer service at the local level, and empower individuals and communities." EngageNJ CEO, Dr. Saul Petersen, explained, "Over the past decade in New Jersey, nearly 50 AmeriCorps members served in EngageNJ AmeriCorps programs, recruiting over 6,000 college volunteers who dedicated over 40,000 hours to fighting against inequality in historically disenfranchised communities, helping over 400 social good businesses and over 2,000 youths to succeed in school. We are eager to take this work to the next phase."

ENGAGECorps is a new AmeriCorps VISTA program designed by EngageNJ, a nonprofit higher education president's coalition based in Jersey City formerly known as New Jersey Campus Compact. Application information to join ENGAGECorps will be released later this month. For more information, or for interview, please contact executive director Dr. Saul Petersen at saul@njcampuscompact.org



ABOUT US

ENGAGECorps

New Jersey Campus Compact (NJCC) is transitioning to new nonprofit name EngageNJ and has just been awarded one of the largest AmeriCorps VISTA grants in New Jersey's history. ENGAGECorps will focus on high school completion, keeping our democracy resilient, increasing college students' overall health, and educating developing minds about human impacts on climate change in our most marginalized communities. Through ENGAGECorps, twenty-two (22) AmeriCorps Members will serve full-time for one year at higher education institutions beginning in the Fall.

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