



AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteers Help The Catalyst Center REACH

HUNTSVILLE, AL – Newly appointed VISTA volunteers at **The Catalyst Center for Business & Entrepreneurship** are on board to help a small staff with a big mission: the new REACH program will include anti-poverty strategies, capacity building for new business growth, and outreach and support for rural and disadvantaged businesses. REACH stands for “Regional Economic Activities for Communicating Hope.”

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) members donate a year of service to their communities to work alongside organizations making a difference.

“I’m so excited to serve as Program Manager for the REACH program,” said Madison business owner Leigh Arnold Christian, Plans to Prosper Marketing. “I love that the Catalyst Center is able to grow and expand their programs focused on economic development through these nine new incredible employees who are donating so much of their time to make a real impact on the North Alabama community.”

The VISTA volunteers include Carolyn Austin, CRM Coordinator; Debbie Esslinger, Engage Coordinator; Stephanie Giannini, Client Coordinator; Cathie M Mayne, Women’s Business Center Coordinator; Renee Scruggs, Operations Coordinator; Rae-Michele Springer, HUBZone Coordinator; Kaelyn Wedgeworth, Technology Coordinator; and Melony Yearta, TechRich Coordinator.

March 11-17 is AmeriCorp Week – a celebration of the people and programs who have committed to “Get Things Done”.

AmeriCorps **VISTA** is a national service program designed to alleviate poverty. President John F. Kennedy originated the idea for **VISTA**, which was founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965. Since 1965, over 220,000 VISTA members have served in all 50 states and U.S. Territories. VISTA volunteers currently serve at over 1,000 sites in Alabama.

The Catalyst Center for Business & Entrepreneurship (formerly WBCNA) serves as a driver for economic growth and job creation in Huntsville and surrounding areas by providing support for entrepreneurs and business owners in every stage of growth. Learn more about its programs at catalystcenter.org.