



**Pima Community College AmeriCorps**  
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## Pima Community College AmeriCorps Program Year (2015-2016)

**Tucson, Arizona**

**Federal Legislative District(s): 3**

### PROGRAM FAST FACTS

**Congressional District(s): 1, 2, 3**  
**State Legislative District(s): 02, 03, 04, 09, 10, 11, 14**  
**Service Area by County/City: Pima/Tucson**  
**Project Federal Share: \$92,980**  
**Project Local Match: \$100,968**  
**Community Volunteers Recruited: 281**  
**Volunteer Hours Served: 3,575**  
**Value of Volunteer Hours: \$71,786**  
\*2011 Independent Sector Rate for the Value of a Volunteer

### **Community Need**

Pima County lies sixty miles north of the Mexican border, encompassing the Tucson metropolitan area, the Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O’odham reservations, as well as unincorporated areas. Pima County is the 16<sup>th</sup> largest county in the United States with a population over 1 million (U.S. Census 2014). Since 2010, the region grew by nearly 90,000 residents. In Pima County 18.5% of the population live below the poverty level. Pima County has 101,645 adults and 11,077 out of school youth (16-19) in need of HSE diplomas and 29,880 adults living in “linguistically isolated” households who need English language skills. Pima Community College Adult Basic Education remains the educational destination of both choice and necessity for some of Pima County’s most vulnerable and needy residents.

### **National Priority Area and Program Performance Goals: Economic Opportunity**

- 500 Economically disadvantaged adults will receive job training and other skill development services and 315 will increase their literacy levels in reading, writing, math and/or English language.

### **Program Activities**

PCC AmeriCorps Members serve as one-on-one and small group student coaches. These coaches contribute to improved educational outcomes for economically disadvantaged individuals in English language and Adult Basic Education (ABE)/Adult Secondary Education (ASE) preparation classes in Adult Education. Members leverage additional volunteers who engage in student leadership activities, national days of service and service learning projects.

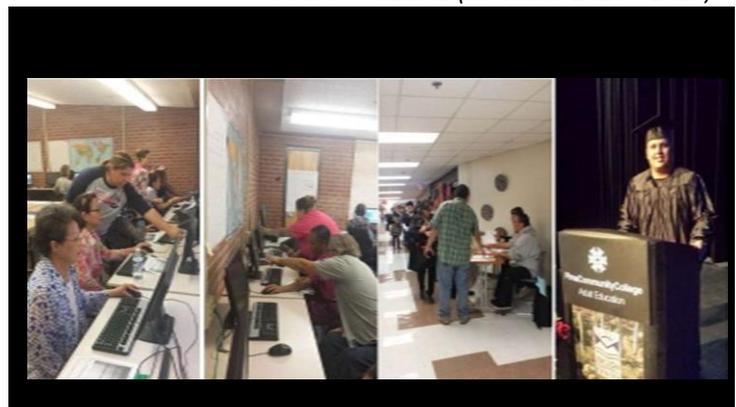
Members support adult education students in reaching their academic skills and career goals. Members co-facilitate literacy development activities with Adult Educators such as teaching English as a Second Language, High School Equivalency preparation, and Digital Story Institutes.

### **Program Impact**

The goal of PCC AmeriCorps is to provide coaching support to adult basic education students who are in need of individualized, differentiated instruction in order to help students achieve goals that will ultimately lead to improved economic well-being for the students and their families. PCC AmeriCorps members have tutored 5,612 adults and children in building their literacy skills. Of those students, 86% have made academic gains.

*“I got my HSE Diploma. I feel like a new man with all of these new skills that I have walked away with. Not to mention my educational award to help me pay for college. I love AmeriCorps now and forever. The program has succeeded in changing my life.”*

*Israel Gonzalez (member 2014 – 2015)*



## Cont. Program Name

### Mission

PCC AmeriCorps will strengthen families through service, building a more literate community through the fundamental principle, "Teach the parent, reach the child."

### Vision

PCC AmeriCorps envisions a community where Members provide service in multiple sites throughout Pima County. AmeriCorps Members will fulfill the mission of building a more literate community by supporting individuals and families in developing their highest potential and breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty and low literacy.

### History

PCC AmeriCorps was established in 1994 and soon became an instrumental component of the Adult Education Program. In the inaugural year, eight AmeriCorps members were placed in five Family Literacy sites. Over the last twenty years AmeriCorps has expanded into many sites, enrolled 299 AmeriCorps members. Of those members, 97 have stayed on to do a second term, of service. Members are currently serving in three Adult Education Learning Centers and the Civics Program.

### Partnerships

State of Arizona  
Corporation for National and Community Service  
Governor Doug Ducey's Office of Youth, Faith and Family  
Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism  
Pima Community College  
Pima Community College Adult Basic Education for College and Career

### OTHER

PCC AmeriCorps is directly aligned with the national directive to "serve communities and build the capacity of organizations to meet local needs." Collaboration is the keystone of PCC AmeriCorps which is an integral part of a network of community organizations including the UA Wildcat Corps, Pima Prevention Partnership and Arizona Serve. AmeriCorps Members from collaborating programs are invited regularly to participate in PCC AmeriCorps educational events, service projects, and trainings such as Adult Literacy, CPR and First Aid. Members participate in a wide range of service projects including at the Governor's Annual National and Community Service Conference, at which time they network with Members from other service programs, share information about resources, and discuss upcoming state-wide service projects.

We are key partners in the Annual Workforce Investment Board Youth Council Career Expo.

PCC AmeriCorps will continue to initiate and participate in coordination meetings with all local collaborating service programs in order to improve the quality of service in Arizona.

In June of 2010, PCC AmeriCorps received national recognition in the publication:

*"A Collection of 52 of the Most Innovative AmeriCorps Programs in the United States"*

On September 12, 2014, seven of our AmeriCorps Alum received the Arizona State Local Leaders Award and one Alumnus was recognized as part of the 20 for 20: National Leadership Awards.

On April 8, 2015, two of our Members received the Mayor's National Service Award.

Over the years many AmeriCorps members who were also adult education students were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society.

