



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

UACE Wildcat Corps
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UACE Wildcat Corps

Program Year (2015-2016)

Arizona

Federal Legislative District(s): 1,2,3,4, & 7

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

Congressional District(s): 1,2,3,4, & 7

State Legislative District(s): 2,3,7,8,9,10,14 & 27

Service Area by County/City: Apache County, Cochise County, Gila County, Greenlee County, Maricopa County/Phoenix, Pima County/Tucson, Pinal County, and Santa Cruz County

Project Federal Share: \$201,388

Project Local Match: \$95,257

Community Volunteers Recruited:

Volunteer Hours Served:

Value of Volunteer Hours:

***2013 Independent Sector Rate for the Value of a Volunteer Hour in Arizona is \$22.52**



NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS & PROGRAM PERFORMANCE GOALS

Healthy Futures (Obesity and Food – Addressing Unmet Health Needs in Communities) – 700 youth will receive nutrition education; At least 700 youth will report improved attitudes towards choosing healthy foods.

Fostering Positive Youth Development in Out-of-School Time (K-12 Educational Success) – 1200 children beginning a CNCS-supported program; 900 students completing a CNCS-supported program; At least 200 students reporting improved academic engagement; At least 200 students report an interest in STEM related fields.

Ready to Learn (Pre-K Education) – 500 children starting in an early childhood program; 200 children ages 0-5 completing early childhood education program; 150 families involved in programs report satisfaction; 500 children demonstrate gains in social and/or emotional literacy; 250 children demonstrate gains in literacy skills.

COMMUNITY NEED

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2013 the poverty rate in Arizona rose for the third year in a row, reaching 20.2%, compared to the national rate of 14.5%. According to the Arizona KIDS COUNT Data Book (July 2014), in 2012 nearly one-half (1/2) or 49% of all children in Arizona lived in low-income families; twelve (12) counties, mostly rural, had more than half of their children living in low income families. In short, economic struggle shapes the lives of at least half of Arizona's children. Because low family income is linked to so many other risk factors (i.e., moving frequently to new neighborhoods and new schools, inadequate health care, low education attainment, higher rates of child abuse and neglect, and increased levels of stress), kids need creative and innovative intervention strategies and programs. In addition to the increase in poverty, statewide, only one out of three (34%) children participate in any type of preschool, ranking Arizona 49th in the nation.

The research is clear – young people need caring adults in their lives, access to safe environments during out-of-school hours, and the opportunities and supports to develop useful skills and participate in civic life. Young people in rural, marginalized and isolated communities are usually the first to experience a decrease in positive opportunities for skill building that will assist those rising out of poverty or cycles of disenfranchisement. Regarding preschool aged children, research supports what parents and teachers have known for years: children without preschool start kindergarten already behind their peers and it is nearly impossible for them to catch up.



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Forty-five (45) AmeriCorps members are serving at various sites in eight (8) counties throughout the state of Arizona. UACE Wildcat Corps members serve in projects in Apache, Cochise, Gila, Greenlee, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, and Santa Cruz counties. Youth and adults serve and participate in community gardening programs, parent education programs, early childhood development programs in Family Resource Centers and other community settings, cooking classes, STEM activities, tutoring, mentoring, challenge courses, seed-to-table programs, water education & conservation, literacy promotion, physical fitness and healthy lifestyles programs, leadership development, life skills education, economic and financial management programs and community integration programs. Members deliver services that benefit children ages 0-5, school-age children, refugees, military youth, families and communities.

Additional volunteers are recruited and trained to assist with many of these programs, contributing a multiplier effect to AmeriCorps efforts. AmeriCorps members also participate in community service activities during national days of service and may assist with fund development and other capacity building activities for their projects.



PROGRAM IMPACT

The extensive portfolio of Extension programs have broad and far-reaching impact on the social well-being across Arizona. For example, over 2,500 families and youth were actively engaged at Pima County Extension’s “Harvest Festival” which taught families healthy nutrition, fitness and positive youth development.

MISSION

The mission of the University of Arizona is to improve the prospects and enrich the lives of the people of Arizona and the world through education, research, creative expression, and community and business partnerships. As a public research university serving the diverse citizens of Arizona and beyond, the University of Arizona strives to provide a comprehensive, high-quality education that engages our students in discovery through research and broad-based scholarship. We aim to empower our graduates to be leaders in solving complex societal problems. Whether in teaching, research, outreach or student engagement, access and quality are the defining attributes of the University of Arizona’s mission.

VISION

Through cross-cutting innovations distinctive to the University of Arizona, we will expand the student experience through engagement, advance knowledge through innovations in creative inquiry and collaboration, and forge novel partnerships to positively impact our community.



HISTORY

The University of Arizona (UA) was designated as the land-grant college in Arizona under the Morrill Act of 1862, and it has developed extensive community-based networks to provide extension services statewide to diverse populations since it was founded in 1885. The mission of the Cooperative Extension was established by federal law in 1914’s Smith-Lever Act to take education from the land-grant universities to rural communities, increasing agricultural production and improving the quality of life.

Today, the Extension programs in Arizona serve as statewide networks of knowledgeable faculty and staff that provide lifelong educational programs in agriculture, youth development (4-H), natural resources, family, consumer and health sciences, community and economic development for all. UACE programs often serve in resource-poor communities in Arizona, particularly those with high poverty rates, low per capita income rates, low average family median income and in areas of low population density. In addition, many of the rural counties in Arizona have a profound scarcity of philanthropic and corporate resources.

PARTNERSHIPS

UACE is a vital community leader in creating and applying knowledge to help people build thriving, sustainable lives, communities and economies. UACE Wildcat Corps has joined with the following local organizations and UACE offices to form a community-based collaboration on this important program: UACE-Apache County, UACE-Cochise County, UACE-Gila County, UACE-Greenlee County, UACE-Maricopa County (Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School/Roosevelt School District), UACE-Pima County (Tucson Village Farm, Tucson Garden Kitchen, and the Pima County 4-H Ropes Course), Arizona Project WET, UACE-Pinal County, and UACE-Santa Cruz County (Nogales, Rio Rico, and Patagonia Family Resource Centers). Other community partners include Manzo Elementary School (4-H) and the Tucson Festival of Books.



OTHER

UACE is a part of a future-oriented, self-renewing, national educational network providing excellence in programs focused on contemporary issues and needs of people. UACE employs an interactive education process that anticipates and capitalizes on the synergy of coalitions and team effort, actively involves the people in issue identification, priority setting, program delivery, and impact assessment. Our program includes faculty and staff who are sensitive, creative, flexible, forward looking, risk taking and professionally competent; who serve a diverse clientele with interests in the issues identified; and who appreciate and recognize the valuable contributions volunteers make to successful programming. Today, UACE continues to address community needs and issues, and AmeriCorps members are a key element in our work to strengthen