

DOI/VISTAs SERVING TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

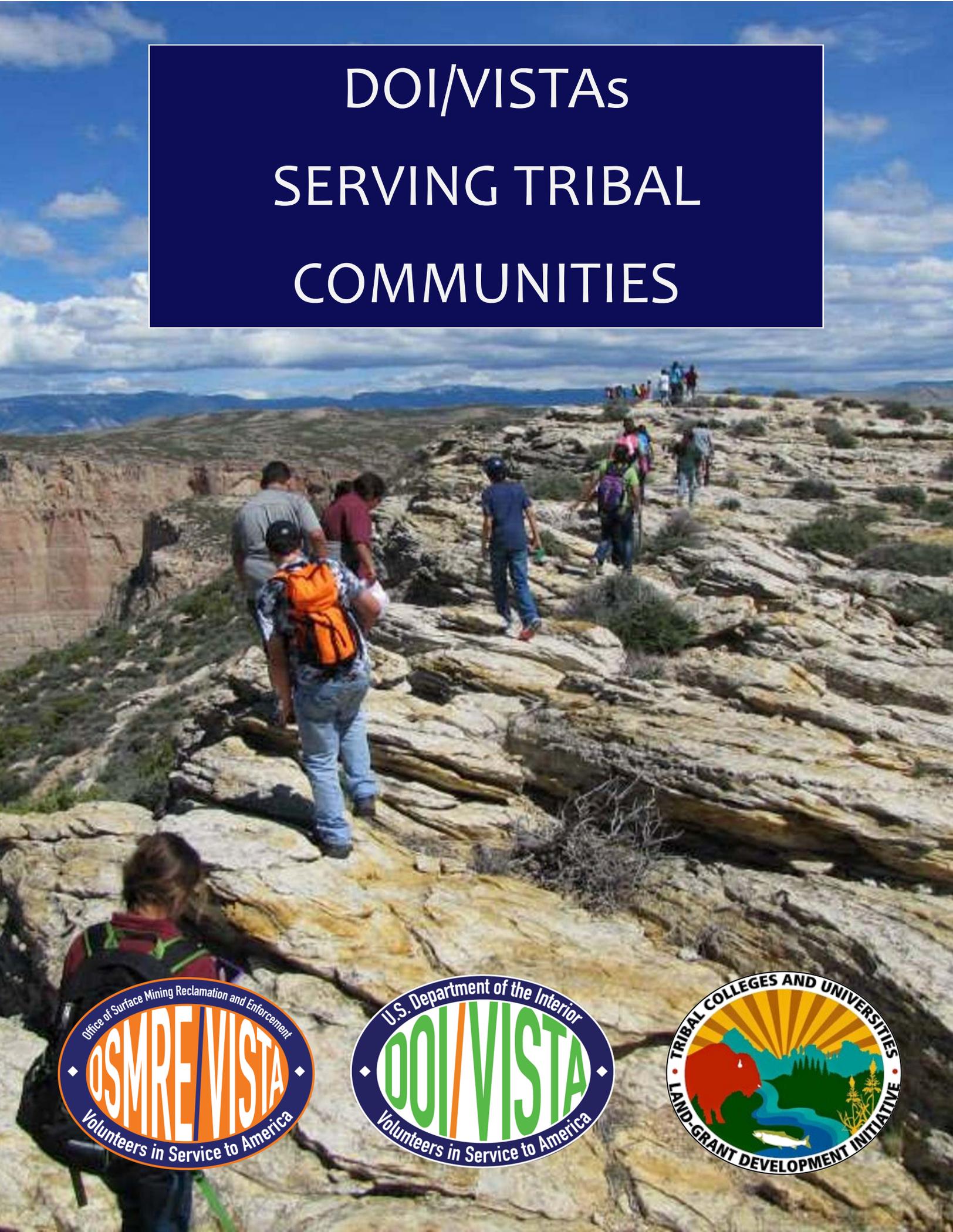


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Summary

DOI/VISTAs serving in tribal communities develop sustainable programs that create economic opportunities through employment training, internships, and community resource development. Additionally, VISTAs initiate programs that foster healthy futures through food sovereignty initiatives, nutritional education, and the development of community gardens on tribal lands. The three VISTA teams with VISTAs serving tribal communities are administered through the Bureaus of the U.S. Department of Interior. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Tribal Colleges and Universities Land Grant Development Initiative assists the Bureau of Indian Affairs-funded Tribal Colleges and Universities Team. All three teams focus on capacity building in underserved communities nationwide. VISTA projects specifically address the sustainability of healthy futures, education and professional development, cultural preservation, and environmental stewardship in underserved tribal communities nationwide.

What is a VISTA?

1. VISTA Volunteers are full time, college educated individuals committing a year of their lives to live and work in their host community.
2. VISTAs write grants, recruit and train volunteers, research and interpret data, build partnerships, coordinate fundraisers, plan festivals, organize tree plantings, develop programs with schools, create outdoor classrooms, present at professional conferences, and more.
3. VISTAs receive a monthly living stipend, health insurance, a \$5,645 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, and, following their term, a year of non-competitive eligibility for federal jobs.
4. During fiscal year 2014, the team placed 16 VISTAs serving tribal communities with DOI Bureaus including the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS:

VISTAs WORKING WITH TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

For the 16 VISTAs Serving from June 2014 – June 2015



362

Acres of public land
cleaned and improved



Volunteer hours
recruited

4,475



Grant funding
received

\$236,555



4,867

Youth engaged in an
educational setting

DOI/VISTA Project Summaries

1 Healthy Futures College of Menominee Nation— Keshena, Wisconsin

The goal of the DOI/VISTA was to focus on the need for local and healthy food within the Menominee Nation. Between October 2014 and June 2015 the DOI/VISTA:

- Wrote 3 grant proposals, collecting \$25,000
- Started the campus's first garden
- Started a local farmers' market
- Created gardening education programs with a demonstration garden and multiple greenhouse projects



Community members attend a local farmer's market organized by the DOI/VISTA

Supervisor: Brian Kowalkowski
Email: bkowalkowski@menominee.edu



A group of students visit the UTTC Kid's Garden where they are educated on growing healthy food

Healthy Futures United Tribes Technical College— Bismarck, North Dakota BIA

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The DOI/VISTA worked to increase organizational capacity and sustainability within the community. In just six months the DOI/VISTA:

- Initiated an online grocery ordering system
- Collected over 500 pounds of litter
- Engaged over 200 youth in an educational setting
- Formed 6 partnerships with community organizations

Supervisor: Pat Aune
Email: paune@uttc.edu

3 Healthy Futures Hasbídító— Eastern Navajo Nation OSMRE

The project goal was to increase access to healthy foods and reduce disease. In the first six months the DOI/VISTA:

- Harvested 310 pounds of food through home gardening programs
- Engaged 25 youth in food and gardening programs
- Provided health and wellness services to 10 individuals
- Partnered with a local program to provide Navajo families prescriptions and vouchers to redeem for fresh fruits and vegetables



AmeriCorps volunteers working on a community garden in the Eastern Navajo Nation

Supervisor: Watson Castillo
Email: ojosix@hotmail.com



The VISTA assists a volunteer with picking beans in a community garden organized for the area's residents

Supervisor: Amber Marlow
Email: marlowa@lco.edu

Healthy Futures Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College— Hayward, Wisconsin BIA

4

The goal of the DOI/VISTA was to educate community members on food sovereignty and its connection to economic development. In the first nine months the DOI/VISTA:

- Secured \$132,000 of funding for the community college's Sustainable Agriculture Research Station
- Harvested 1,800 pounds of food
- Served 56 youth in an educational setting

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Education and Professional Development Saguaro National Park— Tucson, Arizona NPS

The project goal was to develop programs to allow for students in underserved communities to enter into higher level service learning and volunteer opportunities. Between October 2014 and June 2015 the DOI/VISTA:

- Received a \$45,000 grant for the Next Generation Ranger Corps that she helped develop
- Mentored 2 interns in the program
- Organized an educational program for 51 local ninth grade students with NPS biologists



The DOI/VISTA leads Ranger Corps members on a hike through the Park

Supervisor: Laura Law
Email: laura_law@nps.gov



The DOI/VISTA instructs a youth intern on how to assist visitors and answer questions.

Supervisor: Julie Johndreau
Email: julie_johndreau@nps.gov

Education and Professional Development Badlands National Park— Interior, South Dakota NPS

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The DOI/VISTA worked to educate youth and college students in an attempt to fill several entry level positions at White River Visitors' Center. In the last nine months the DOI/VISTA:

- Trained five community members in job and employment skills
- Served 25 youth in an education setting
- Received the Ticket to Ride grant to transport youth interns from the Pine Ride Reservation to the park
- Organized a volunteer work day which collected 500 pounds of litter

7 Education and Professional Development

Institute of American Indian Arts— Santa Fe, New Mexico

BIA

The project goal was to identify the areas of education and training needs that will enhance the abilities of the Native citizens. In the short three months since beginning this site, the DOI/VISTA:

- Worked to develop a survey to assess the needs of the community
- Aided in the coordination and administration of an assessment across the 22 Indian Pueblos and Tribes served by IAIA
- Assisted with the final analysis of data provided by the survey the VISTA created and distributed



A group of students and natural resources management program faculty tour IAIA's greenhouse and garden

Supervisor: Charlene Carr
Email: ccarr@iaia.edu



Volunteers working together during the SIPI Restoration Work-day to restore a site that will be used for future projects

Supervisor: Dorothy Wester
Email: dorothea.wester@bie.edu

8 Education and Professional Development

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute— Albuquerque, New Mexico

BIA

8

The goal of the DOI/VISTA was to build community knowledge, skills and employment opportunities in agriculture and land conservation. From October 2014 to April 2015 the DOI/VISTA:

- Initiated professional development projects such as resume consultations, grant writing workshops, and speakers discussing employment opportunities
- Trained 63 individuals in the community in job or employment skills
- Recruited 50 volunteers to help clean a 4-acre plot of land used for experiential learning purposes

9 Cultural Preservation

Glacier National Park— West Glacier, Montana

NPS

The project goal was to develop a youth engagement and partnership program within Glacier National Park. In the last six months the DOI/VISTA:

- Developed a cultural interpretation class at Blackfeet Community College
- Served 300 youth in an educational setting
- Created 5 projects related to the celebration and preservation of local history, culture, and art



The DOI/VISTA poses with a group of students during an education program on Elk, a vital species at the Park

Supervisor: Laura Law
Email: laura_law@nps.gov

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Cultural Preservation

Leech Lake Tribal College—
Cass Lake, Minnesota
BIA

The project goal was to provide educational opportunities and sustainable health and wellness programs to LLTC students. For the last nine months the DOI/VISTA:

- Implemented course work for 5 classes at the college
- Created 8 projects related to celebration and preservation of the local and regional history, culture, and art
- Prepared a successful proposal for the LLTC Wellness Center to become the only rural, tribal, community college in the nation to be selected by a Partnership for a Healthier America’s “Healthier Campus Initiative.”



The DOI/VISTA participates in the squash cook off, an event aimed to foster healthy eating through traditional meals

Supervisor: Matt Hanson
Email: matt.hanson@LLTC.edu



The DOI/VISTA demonstrates a traditional Iñupiat recipe at an area high school

Cultural Preservation

Ilisagvik College—
Barrow, Alaska
BIA

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The goal of the DOI/VISTA was to promote healthy futures through culturally relevant meals. From November 2014 to June 2015 the DOI/VISTA:

- Organized 5 events celebrating tribal culture, reaching 85 youth
- Provided cooking classes and health information to more than 1200 community members
- Provided free traditionally grown herbs and greens to more than 150 in the community

Supervisor: Diana Solenberger
Email: diana.solenberger@ilisagvik.edu

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Cultural Preservation

Big Horn Canyon National Park—
Fort Smith, Montana
NPS

The project goal was to bring Native American youth into State and National parks and create projects promoting education and health. Between October 2014 and June 2015 the DOI/VISTA:

- Obtained \$3,334 in donated resources
- Recruited 25 longstanding community volunteers
- Developed educational speaker’s series in three schools across the reservation, reconnecting youth with their cultural history
- Implemented a career fair and resume workshop at a local tribal college



Students from Pretty Eagle Catholic Academy in Bighorn Canyon

Supervisor: Christy Fleming
Email: christy_fleming@nps.gov

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Environmental Stewardship War in the Pacific National Historical Park— Hagåtña, Guam NPS

The project goal was to engage underserved youth in outdoor education programs. In six months the DOI/VISTA:

- Organized a service-learning project with a local high school during, collecting 2000 pounds of waste around Ponte Plateau World War II site
- Initiated fieldtrips and outreach presentations to engage youth
- Joined the Guam Department of Education’s Service Learning Committee and contributed to the 3-day is-land-wide Service Learning Summit



Students, National Park Service Rangers and volunteers after the Habitat Restoration service-learning project

Supervisor: Rose Manibusan
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DOI and OSMRE VISTAs with community reflections from their day at the Aztec Ruins National Park.

Supervisor: Danielle York
Email: Danielle_york@nps.gov

Environmental Stewardship Aztec Ruins National Monument — Aztec, New Mexico NPS

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The goal of the DOI/VISTA was to educate local youth on the environment and the Monument. Between October 2014 and June 2015, the DOI/VISTA:

- Surveyed 300 teachers on which educational needs the Monument could address
- Organized an education session and field-trip for 160 local high school students
- Hosted traditional Pueblo game nights at an elementary school, reaching 130 youth
- Reached over 1300 community residents and solicited 1200 volunteer hours

15 Environmental Stewardship Hands on the Land Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument— Albuquerque, New Mexico BLM

The goal of the DOI/VISTA was to create programs to foster outdoor education and promote citizen ownership of public lands. In the first six months the DOI/VISTA:

- Recruited the Monument’s first group of interpretive guides to provide educational tours
- Secured 2 grants allowing more underserved students to visit the Monument
- Established the Monument’s first Teacher on Public Lands who will work 160 hours developing curriculum



Members of the American Hiking Society visit KKTR and take an interest in the natural rock formations

Supervisor: Jackie Leyba
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For More Information Visit:

www.doivista.org - www.osmrevista.org



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