February 5, 2015

Dear Prospective AmeriCorps Member,

Thank you for your interest in the AmeriCorps Cross-Cultural Education Service Systems (ACCESS) Project!

Incepted in 1994, ACCESS (AmeriCorps Cross-Cultural Education Service Systems) is the only program exclusively serving immigrant and refugee communities throughout North Carolina. ACCESS is administered through UNCG – Office of Research and Economic Development at the Center for New North Carolinians. The focus of ACCESS is to help immigrant and refugee residents of our state succeed in their adjustment to life in NC. Our AmeriCorps members are placed with not-for-profit agencies to help them serve immigrant and refugee communities in their local community. Our members are intended to help build the capacity of agencies like yours and help enhance services to better serve your clients. Currently, we have over 20 service sites throughout North Carolina where our members are placed to do their AmeriCorps service.

1. Full-time members agree to provide at least 1700 hours of service over the program year. In exchange, the members receive $12,530 living allowance (paid in 11 monthly installments) and $5,730 education award (equivalent to the Pell Grant amount). Health insurance is offered free of charge for full-time members who do not already have health insurance coverage. Full-time members are also eligible to apply for childcare service.

2. Part-time members agree to provide at least 900 hours of service over the program year. They receive $6,265 living allowance (paid in 11 monthly installments) and $2,865 education award (equivalent to ½ of the Pell Grant amount).

3. Quarter-time Education Award Only: Members agree to provide at least 450 hours of service over the program year at a non-profit agency performing work related to helping the immigrant/refugee communities. Members receive $1,515.55 in education award (equivalent to ¼ of the Pell Grant amount).

About half of ACCESS members are themselves immigrants and refugees. Many of our current members are Spanish-speaking and perform their service within the Latino community, but we also serve many non-Spanish-speaking populations: Montagnard, Bhutanese, Iraqi, Nepali, Sudanese and others. Our partner agencies include refugee resettlement agencies, local health departments, multicultural libraries, and grassroots organizations such as African Services Coalition in Greensboro and Centro La Comunidad in Burlington. In previous years, ACCESS members have served their communities through our partner agencies in the areas of interpretation, volunteer recruitment, disaster preparedness outreach, English language instruction, information and referral, and much more.

This upcoming 2015-16 service year, ACCESS is concentrating on the following service focus areas: employment training and placement, volunteer recruitment and management, and disaster preparedness outreach. ACCESS members will carry out their service activities in these areas.

1. Employment training and placement – In providing assistance to immigrants and refugees to obtain employment, the members will provide services including, but not limited to: case management, transportation (to/from job interviews), applying for jobs, learning computer skills, teaching English as a Second Language (ESOL) classes, and practicing mock interviews.

2. Volunteer recruitment – Members will be expected to recruit volunteers for their partner agency and establish volunteer recruitment and management systems for partner agencies.
3. **Disaster preparedness outreach** – Members will arrange and conduct disaster preparedness workshops and disseminate disaster preparedness literature in various languages to immigrants/refugees, as well as providing or arranging for interpretation as needed.

We are **seeking to recruit new members for the 2015-16 service year**. Our program year runs Sept.11, 2015 - Aug. 31, 2016. We have the following AmeriCorps positions available: 20 full-time w/stipend, 26 part-time w/stipend, and 18 quarter-time Education Award Only.

Please contact one of the ACCESS staff with any questions:

Ms. Khouan Rodriguez at 336-256-1060 or khouan.cnnc@uncg.edu
Ms. Cynthia Mejia at 336-256-1375 or cynthia.cnnc@uncg.edu

The ACCESS Team looks forward to hearing from you!

Cordially,

Khouan M. Rodriguez  
Project Director