



July 27, 2009

NKU adds volunteer coordinator

*By Howard McEwen
Enquirer contributor*

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Northern Kentucky University volunteers have a new leader supplied by the Americorp VISTA program.

Kentucky Campus Compact has announced that Rebekah James of Lewisville, N.C., will serve a 12-month federal volunteer position at NKU's Office of Student Life.

"I definitely have heard that the NKU population is very business," said James. "Many students have a full- or part-time job so I'll make the activities something that's resume-building.

"They'll do something that not only feels good but add to their leadership experience."

Americorp VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups.

James said she views her role as tying together the campus' many groups to their individual volunteer programs.

"They don't have someone that's strictly for volunteers," said James. "They don't have anyone who can coordinate all the groups together so there's overlap. My position allows more organization."

James grew up in Mt. Airy, N.C. and earned a degree in corporate communications from Elon University. She graduated this past July.

One task James will be doing is advising NKU's Freshman Service Leadership Committee.

"This really encourages freshman to get involved on campus and network with other students," she said.

"I definitely hope to come up with more community partners and people we can work with. My object is to have volunteer sheets by major and have a relationship build so the students will have an opportunities to build up their resume and serve the community at the same time."

Lee Ann Luxenberger, NKU's VISTA program coordinator, said James is one of three recent college graduates serving the community through the program at NKU.

Tyrell Pentz is a graduate of the Cincinnati Art Academy and is serving with the Scripps Howard Center until December. Courtney Mims is a Western Kentucky University graduate who just finished her first term of service with the NKU Institute for Nonprofit Capacity and is serving until July 2010 as the VISTA Leader for Kentucky Campus Compact to support a 15-member team.

James' service will run through July 2010.
