

AmeriCorps Impacts My Life

So far my experience in AmeriCorps has been incredible. My placement, as a high school math tutor has proven to be everything that I was looking for when I first became interested in AmeriCorps. At first I was not sure of what to expect as I found the program really late and was just barely accepted for my placement at the last possible moment. I had a general idea that I wanted to serve somewhere in education, as my future plans are to go into teaching, but I was not sure how I would fare as a math tutor considering my expertise is in the social studies realm. I was definitely intrigued and excited from the beginning, but to say that I was a little bit nervous would be a considerable understatement.

From the moment that I began working with the students here at the high school the nervousness melted away and formed into a level of passion and engagement that I don't believe that I had previously ever experienced. I find myself challenged on a daily basis, but not once have I even come close to growing frustrated. The opportunities that I have had to help the students engage in their school work and to provide mentoring have affected me in ways that words could hardly do justice. There have been times where a period will end or the day will come to a close and I will literally express out loud how much I love this work. While certainly not every time that I sit down with a student can be considered an ultimate success, as I am still learning and making mistakes, there are just so many moments where I can not only see that I am making a difference, but I can feel it. Whether it is a student showing that they can conquer math problems that we have been working on by themselves or a student very sincerely expressing how much I have helped them, I am constantly reminded of the importance and legitimacy of the service that I am doing. This is not the only reason for my satisfaction with the experience.

Before entering this AmeriCorps placement and certainly before deciding to devote my life to education I had led a fairly selfish life. At the time I certainly didn't recognize it as such, but everything I did fit into the category of things that would advance my own life and agenda and little attention was paid to the relevance of my choices and work towards society as a whole. I can honestly say that right now I am happier and more satisfied than I have ever been in my life. The ability to have an effect that resonates larger than my own personal bubble has certainly played a key role in this satisfaction and it shows that no matter how much one focuses on trying to meet their own needs they can still be incredibly empty and wanting.