



Building resilient Wisconsin communities through volunteers.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Local volunteer empowers area Latinos towards economic mobility

MILWAUKEE, WI – As an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) in her second year of service with Wisconsin Campus Compact, Erica Steele has developed the Empowering Latinos program to the point where it has a waiting list.

The program is a one-on-one enhancement program providing a range of services including low-cost English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in partnership with Mount Mary College and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin.

“Empowering Latinos has grown exponentially during Erica’s involvement, serving more than one hundred participants in 10 week terms with a waiting list each time,” says Kelly Knox, VISTA Leader at Wisconsin Campus Compact.

Participants work one-on-one with one of 300 volunteers to address individual goals. The program is focused on providing tools to help Latino individuals develop and reach their full potential for economic mobility and gain greater access to career and educational advancement leading to self-sufficiency and financial independence.

Participants have advanced via the program to open their own business, take the GED, and enroll in community college degree-programs. The program also enables volunteers to develop relationships with culturally and linguistically diverse community members in the community.

Steele received a certificate of recognition from Volunteer Wisconsin the statewide office on volunteerism and this month is being featured on their website as the July Volunteer of the Month.

“Erica is inspiring in her commitment to the Empowering Latinos program,” says Knox. “She has built a program that is not only teaching English skills, but she has also created a community of trust and caring.

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Volunteer Wisconsin is the state office on volunteerism leveraging volunteer capabilities and local assets to enhance communities throughout Wisconsin by promoting volunteerism, connecting volunteers, supporting volunteer capacity, and fostering partnerships. Visit www.volunteerwisconsin.org to recruit volunteers and search for volunteer opportunities.

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