IN THEIR WORDS

“I have fallen absolutely in love with these English Essentials students, and I am so glad that AmeriCorps has given me the chance to work with them. A lot of times, people will not do better until they see and know that there is better for them to do. Though they are challenging, they are also beautiful kids with great talents and potential.”
—Jermaine, graduate student and Project HEART member

“I’ve learned to have compassion for people that are less fortunate than myself. I’ve learned to appreciate my fifth-grade students. I’ve learned that what I do makes a difference. I’ve learned that teaching may be something I want to do with my life. I’ve learned that kindness does go a long way with kids. I’ve learned that in order to tutor high school students, you have to be able to reach them. I’ve learned about expectations for students. But most of all, I’ve learned that the greatest gift in life is giving itself.”
—Nellary, high school student and Project HEART member

“Doug came up to me on Monday and told me he failed his geometry test, and that he was a failure who would never amount to anything in life. This completely broke my heart. I started looking over his test with him. Since I am no math person, I noticed that if he had gotten all of the vocabulary words right, he would have passed the test. I challenged him to get all the vocabulary words right on his next test. When I came in class on Wednesday, he almost plowed me over to show me his test. He made a 99 on it and got all the vocabulary words right! I was so proud of him. I think our AVID kids are really starting to feel more confident in their schoolwork. We’ve seen some really good improvements.”
—Roxanne, Project HEART member

“Project HEART has helped my son Tyrone. His attitude towards school has changed since he started working with a Project HEART member. He didn’t used to like to read, but having someone work with him has changed that. Now Tyrone loves to come home from Chocowinity Middle and read to me, my husband, and his grandmother. Tyrone also made the honor roll this year.”
—Trina, mother of a student mentored through Project HEART
WHAT YOU GAIN

In addition to the financial incentives Project HEART offers, you’ll also get to
• experience personal growth by helping others;
• expand your leadership skills and your connection to the community;
• strengthen your understanding of social issues facing the students you work with;
• develop a strong sense of civic engagement;
• build friendships.

To be eligible to enroll in Project HEART, you must
• be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or permanent resident alien of the United States;
• be at least seventeen years old;
• have a high school diploma or GED or obtain one while serving;
• be enrolled in an approved education program;
• maintain at least a 2.0 GPA;
• be dependable, organized, trustworthy, flexible, energetic, and have a positive attitude.
Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

WHO WE ARE

Project HEART is an extended partnership program between ECU, AmeriCorps, the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, community colleges, Boys & Girls Clubs, a community life center, and schools and school systems in eastern North Carolina. Located in the College of Education at East Carolina University, the project aims to help at-risk students succeed academically by reducing course failure, school suspension, and juvenile delinquency.

Visit Project HEART’s Web site at www.coe.ecu.edu/projectheart for more information.

What You Do

Through this program unique to East Carolina, you will serve in the following ways:
• Spend about twenty hours each week for twelve consecutive months interacting with ten students at a school, a Boys & Girls Club, or an after-school program.
• Tutor elementary and middle school students who score below the state standard in reading.
• Mentor these students to help them improve in the classroom and beyond.
• Tutor ninth-grade students in the AVID program.

You will also earn a living allowance of $5,398.00 to be paid monthly in equal amounts of $449.83. Members successfully completing 900 hours of service will be eligible for an educational award of $2,363.00 to attend graduate school or pay off school loans.