

GREAT STORIES

GEORGIA

4-H



UGA College of Public Health Leadership Academy

Ashleigh Childs

February, 2019



Ashleigh Childs, Southwest District AmeriCorps VISTA was selected for participation in the 2019 University of Georgia College of Public Health Leadership Academy. This Academy is to provide access to resources for public health advocates and community leaders across the state of Georgia.

Ashleigh was sponsored by the Healthy Colquitt Coalition to attend the two-day session as part of a year-long program to connect with peers and be provided with research-based tools to improve health outcomes in communities. Ashleigh will be able to apply her knowledge and skills gained through participation in the Healthy Colquitt Coalition in its involvement in the Well Connected Communities initiative.

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Innovation Skill Building Experience Workshop

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On December 13-14, 2018, Southwest District AmeriCorps VISTA member, Ashleigh Childs, attended the eXtension Innovation Skill Building Experience workshop held at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. This workshop is provided by the National eXtension Cooperation included teams of UGA Extension specialists, agents, and staff from 4-H, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Agriculture and Natural Resources program areas. The teams were invited to attend the workshop to learn how to develop an abstract idea into a plan of action.

Ashleigh was a member of the Well Connected Communities team, comprised of the Family and Consumer Sciences agents from the three counties. This team was involved in the piloting of the initiative supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Georgia. The Well Connected Communities team collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “Healthier Together” grant and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.

The team discussed how to better serve community members, address needs, and promote sustainability of program efforts. Ashleigh assisted in the generation of ideas for improving the effectiveness of the Well Connected Communities initiative in Georgia, and suggested that a resource guide for implementation of the initiative would be necessary for the future of this project.

Ashleigh shared with UGA Extension staff from other districts and project teams the role that AmeriCorps VISTA plays with impacting the county. The AmeriCorps VISTA program has assisted in the progression of the Well Connected Communities initiative in Colquitt County through the creation of recruitment materials for youth volunteers, development of structure for coalition meetings, and providing a connection to community resources.