

## **Descriptions of Volunteer Opportunities Fall 2023**

### **One-on-One Mentoring with GCC Students**

One on one mentoring relationships allow students to connect, build social capital, learn from the experience of others and grow their confidence and competence! Mentoring relationships can be facilitated remotely or in-person, and all are one-on-one. We ask that mentors make a commitment to students for the duration of the semester during which the relationship begins. Mentors and their students meet approximately once per week for an hour, but it varies by pair. Students choose their mentor based on shared experiences, interests, or commonality around career paths. **It should be noted that there is no guarantee you would receive a mentee if you sign up for this particular volunteer opportunity. It is contingent on student interest.**

Training Required: An initial two- hour training will be offered. Optional trainings are offered throughout the year.

### **Help Desk – Main Building**

The help desk was new to campus in 2020. Volunteers who serve at the help desk (in the main lobby) primarily greet campus visitors, connect with students, staff and faculty and assist people with finding their way on and around campus. If you enjoy greeting and connecting this could be the right opportunity for you!

Hours: Two hours per week between the hours of 10:00am-2:00pm (preferably 11:00AM-1:00PM)

Training: Two-hour training session with OASIS staff and a tour of the building. You will also have resources at the desk to assist with answering questions as well as support from the OASIS staff.

### **Beacon Institute (GCC/GHS Partnership)**

The Beacon Institute program will be housed in the East Building on GCC's main campus. The hours for the program are Monday-Friday from Noon-2:00PM. The program is designed for Greenfield High School students who have fallen behind in credit hours due to the impacts of the pandemic. The focus will be on entrepreneurship, art, innovation, and work-based learning experiences. We are looking for volunteers to serve as mentors for the students and/or individuals who are interested in facilitating a workshop or program that is age appropriate and innovative.

Hours: Vary (up to the Volunteer)

Training: TBD

### **Conversation Partner**

Volunteers interested in working with ESOL students will have the opportunity to help them acquire new vocabulary and practice vocabulary words or grammar points they have learned in class in an informal setting. Conversation partners will also implicitly be helping students feel comfortable communicating and interacting smoothly and fluently in English. Additionally, participants will be able to help students continue to practice speaking and listening skills such as turn taking, intonation, word stress,

pronunciation, and asking/answering questions (about the conversation topic, not about language or grammar). This is a one-to-one conversational relationship. Whether in-person or remote is to be determined by the student and conversation partner. Opportunity is contingent on student interest.

Hours: Vary (up to the Volunteer and Student). Most conversation partner pairs meet for an hour once a week during the semester.

### **Intergenerational Podcast (Backyard OASIS)**

We are looking for individuals to help us plan and facilitate shows for our newly created podcast "Backyard OASIS". This is a podcast by and for older adults in Franklin County, and we discuss topics that are relevant to that population. The time commitment is anything the volunteer wants it to be! You can volunteer to participate in or facilitate one podcast OR you can be part of the planning team.

### **Planning Community Education Workshops**

Volunteers will collaborate with the Associate Dean for Community Engagement (Judy Raper) to plan personal enrichment and life-long learning opportunities in the form of workshops and micro-courses. There will be two meetings during the summer to plan for the fall and two meetings in late Fall to plan for the Spring. Volunteers will also have the option of serving as 'hosts' for the workshops about which they are passionate and/or contributed to planning.

### **Twice As Smart**

Twice As Smart is an after-school program for at-risk children. The 22 children who attend this program range in age from 6 to 15, and are Latinx, Black, African American, Native American, and White. Some are immigrants just learning English. All are living in poverty, most in public housing, many in the custody of the Department of Children and Families. Their caregivers are parents, grandparents, and sometimes foster parents.

GCC has developed a formal partnership with Twice As Smart, and you can either help facilitate on campus activities for the group OR volunteer directly with TAS Tuesdays from 5 to 7 PM on Saturdays from 10 AM to 12 Noon at the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield. If you are interested in volunteering directly with the group, please contact Gloria Matlock at 617-543-2965.

### **Food Pantry**

GCC has an independent food pantry called the\_Corner Market, and is an official site of [Franklin County Community Meals, Inc.](#), located in N220 on GCC's main campus. The market is open for limited hours, and we would love to expand them! Training will be provided by the Food Pantry Coordinator. The time commitment will be 2-4 hours per week (during the hours of 9-2 M-Th), but will depend on your schedule!

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities, please apply at: <https://engage.gcc.mass.edu/seniors/>