America Reads
America Counts
Office of University-Community Partnerships at Rutgers-Newark

A UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM PROVIDING TUTORING SERVICES TO NEWARK STUDENTS
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Staff Members

Diane Hill, Ph.D.
ASSISTANT CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Rolando Herts, Ph.D.
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Donita Devance
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
PLANNING DIRECTOR, NEWARK FAIRMOUNT PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Yvette Ortiz-Beaumont
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUDGET OPERATIONS & EVENT SERVICES

Lesley Leslie
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, RU READY FOR WORK, NEWARK SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Maxene Summey
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
America Reads/Counts
Program and Resource Manual Contributors

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<tr>
<td>Executive Editors</td>
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<td>Assistant Chancellor</td>
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<td>University-Community Partnerships (OUCP)</td>
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<td>Rolando Herts, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Associate Director, OUCP</td>
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<td>Site Research and Development</td>
<td>Lesley D. Leslie</td>
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<td>Payroll and Budget Management</td>
<td>Yvette Ortiz-Beaumont</td>
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<td>Contributing Writers and Editors</td>
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<td>Alexis Grey</td>
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<td>Naomi Kim</td>
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<td>Ishita Parikh</td>
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Acknowledgements

The America Reads/Counts Program at Rutgers-Newark appreciates the support of the following campus and community partners during the 2012-13 academic year:

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<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>Newark Literacy Campaign</td>
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<td>Mel Brown and Douglas Wilson</td>
<td>Office of Financial Aid</td>
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<td>Vivian Lanzot and Nadyrah Amin</td>
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Program Overview

Administered by the Office of University-Community Partnerships (OUCP), the Rutgers-Newark America Reads/Counts Program serves youth and adults by providing tutoring in Newark area schools and in other education-related institutions and organizations. In partnership with the Newark Literacy Campaign and Rutgers-Newark's Office of Financial Aid/Student Employment, the America Reads/Counts Program has become a positive addition to the Newark community. The program enriches tutee's lives by providing academic tutorial support in the areas of math and reading.

Selection

Rutgers-Newark students are eligible to become an America Reads/Counts tutor based on the following criteria:

- Must be enrolled currently at Rutgers-Newark.
- Must be eligible for federal work-study.
- Must indicate interest in doing community service on their work-study application.
- Must be interested in and dedicated to tutoring in the areas of reading and math.

OUCP receives work-study paperwork for prospective America Reads/Counts tutors from the Rutgers-Newark Office of Financial Aid. While previous tutoring experience is not necessary, OUCP does require prospective tutors to complete an application, to provide a resume, and to be interviewed. During the interview process, prospective tutors learn about the program and the important educational support services, it provides, to the surrounding community. Professionalism, dependability, time management, and personal responsibility are impressed upon prospective tutors as ideal attributes of an America Reads/Counts tutor. Prospective tutors are told explicitly that as America Reads/Counts tutors, they are representing not only themselves and OUCP in the community but also Rutgers University. Prospective tutors are asked explicitly if they have an interest in tutoring, education, and/or working with youth. After OUCP determines that a prospective tutor is a good fit for the program, the tutor is set up for training and placement.

Training and Placement

OUCP works with the Newark Literacy Campaign (NLC) to train and place America Reads/Counts tutors. NLC offers two to three Saturday orientation/training sessions for new tutors at the beginning of the fall semester (i.e., September through October), as well as a renewal training for returning tutors. OUCP and NLC work collaboratively to place tutors in sites in the Newark community. Sites have included public schools, private schools, charter schools, and community-based educational support agencies.
Program Overview

Administration and Monitoring

OUCP remains in contact with America Reads/Counts tutors throughout the academic year. OUCP processes payroll paperwork for the tutors and submits time sheets so that they may receive timely work-study payments. OUCP also holds monthly student staff meetings where tutors may meet other student employees in the department and receive necessary information. Traditionally, OUCP hosts a mid-year meeting at the beginning of the spring semester to receive written (via survey) and verbal feedback on tutors' experiences. During the 2012-13, there was a mid-year meeting held in early February 2013, as well as an end-year meeting held in April 2013, where tutors are provided with information for the completion of the annual report. There will also be information about summer employment opportunities given within the meeting.

Work-Study Assignment Procedure

Rutgers-Newark students are assigned to the America Reads/Counts program through the Rutgers-Newark Office of Financial Aid. Once a student receives his/her America Reads/Counts assignment, it is the student's responsibility to bring his/her paperwork to the OUCP administrative office for processing and for interview scheduling. Thus, OUCP only processes and interviews new and returning students who decide to accept their America Reads/Counts work-study assignments.

Student Agency: Enrollment and Other Employment

Some new tutors decide within the first semester of their placement that their schedule does not allow them to work enough hours at their site(s). In such cases, they are encouraged to switch to OUCP's Campus Information unit so that they may maintain their federal work-study placement with the department. In other cases, such students find employment elsewhere, either on campus or outside the institution. This is a contributing factor with regard to total service hours, as well as average service hours per tutor.

Art work created by Camden Street School students
The populations served at these school/community organization sites range from K-12 students, as well as young adults ages 16-24 who are studying to complete their GEDs (i.e., YouthBuild Newark).

During the 2012-13 academic year, there were 27 Rutgers-Newark work study students employed with America Reads/Counts. These students have provided approximately 3,658 hours of combined tutoring services in local schools/community organizations, as well as support to educational university-community partnership events and program administration.

During the 2012-13 academic year, the America Reads/Counts program increased the number of sites it serves from 11 (2011-12 academic year) to a total of 14.

To date, the estimated value (i.e., federal work study funds) of services provided to the Newark community through the America Reads/Counts Program at Rutgers-Newark is over $150,000.

100% of America Reads/Counts tutors surveyed during the annual mid-year meeting held in February 2013 said that they would recommend the program to their friends as a positive work-study employment opportunity.
I was a student at Rutgers-Newark when I began working with America Reads/Counts where I built great relationships over the course of four years. I was assigned to work at Newton Street Elementary School and I wasn’t accustomed to urban school settings or the environment surrounding since I was raised in the suburbs. I decided to give it a chance because as the saying goes, “don’t judge the book by its cover”. I got used to the school settings and environment and as a result, I fell in love with the students. I enjoyed helping them with math, science, history and social studies and they seemed to enjoy having me in the classroom, making my first year a great experience. I wanted to continue to help people and make a difference in their lives; therefore I decided to change my major from accounting to social work. The students looked at me not only as their academic tutor but also as a mentor because they would come to me with their problems which were not school related. Due to the positive relationships I developed while at Newton Street Elementary School, I was able to complete my social work internship there during my junior year. I ran into a dilemma during my senior year where the teacher I had worked with for the past three years moved to First Avenue School. I had the option of staying at Newton Street School with the same students or to tutor at First Avenue School with the same teacher. I had decided to work at First Avenue School because there seemed to be a greater need for me in the classroom and the teacher and I had such a good relationship. The students were just as welcoming and loving as the children from Newton Street School.

Overall, I believe that America Reads/Counts has helped me choose my career field. After I graduate, I plan to continue with my education by working towards a Master in Social Work and I’ll continue to work with children in the community. Here is my advice to any new incoming America Reads/Counts tutors: write down your course schedule and events on a calendar so that you are able to map out things ahead of time. If you have a full course load, I would advice not to work too many hours because the work load can become overwhelming and a lot of the time the children are just happy to see you only once or twice a week. Finally, my last pieces of advice are to view every relationship as important and worthwhile, as they may come in handy in the future and, most of all ENJOY YOUR TIME WHILE WORKING WITH AMERICA READS/COUNTS!
# Tutor Roster

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<tr>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Working Site</th>
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<tr>
<td>Begum, Safia</td>
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<td>Carter, Tevin C</td>
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<td>Murray, Christine</td>
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TOTAL STUDENTS ASSIGNED TO AMERICA READS/COUNTS: 27

NUMBER OF TUTORS RETURNING FROM 2011-2012: 9
(R) Indicates returning tutor from 2011-12

TOTAL SERVICE HOURS LOGGED: 3,658

AVERAGE SERVICE HOURS PER TUTOR: 135

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<td>Patel, Zeel</td>
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Name: Georgina K Cadillo  
Major: Political Science  
Classification: Freshman  
Work Site: YouthBuild and St. Phillips Academy

“It is a great feeling to help students who are in need of my assistance.”

Name: Safia Begum  
Major: Chemical Engineering  
Classification: Freshman  
Work Site(s): Administration Office

“Even though I found making the America Reads newsletter and updating the database a challenge, I have learned so much, especially handling computers and different software applications.”

Name: Tevin Carter  
Major: Undecided  
Classification: Freshman  
Work Site(s): Newark Public Literary Program

“Explaining certain topics was a challenge, but I enjoyed helping the children with their reading and school related work.”
America Reads/Counts Tutor Profiles 2013-14

Name: Michelle Cermeno
Major: Psychology
Classification: Transfer
Work Site(s): Ann Street School and Newark Public Library Saturday Program

“I’m thankful to have the opportunity to help children improve.”

Name: Harsh Dave
Major: Engineering
Classification: Freshman
Work Site(s): I Have a Dream @ Great Oaks Charter

“What has interested me most about America Reads/Counts is helping others to do better academically, which will open many doors for their future.”

Name: Leslie Fernandez
Major: Social Work
Classification: Transfer
Work Site(s): Camden Street School, Roseville Avenue School and Newark Public Library Saturday Program

“My main goal is to help children realize their full potential in order to make their dreams a reality.”
America Reads/Counts Tutor Profiles 2013-14

Name: Harsimran Kaur
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Classification: Sophomore
Work Site(s): YouthBuild
“What motivates me is seeing the progress of my students.”

Name: Shane Fuller
Major: Undecided
Classification: Freshman
Work Site(s): St Phillips Academy
“The best part about what I do, is being welcomed by the joy of the students and their eagerness to learn.”

Name: Quiana Gleaves
Major: Social Work
Classification: Senior
Work Site(s): First Avenue School and Newton Street School
“I work as a tutor and as a mentor, making a difference is what I strive for. Thus far, I have done the things that I wanted to do, to help make a difference in the lives of my students.”
America Reads/Counts Tutor Roster 2013-14

Name: Naomi Kim
Major: Psychology and Biology
Classification: Junior
Work Site(s): I Have a Dream @ North Star and Newark Public Library Saturday Program

“I like that my job is community service oriented and that I can get involved in the community of Newark rather than just working on-campus.”

Name: Efrain J Mercado
Major: Social Work And Psychology
Classification: Senior
Work Site(s) Dr. E. Alma School

“As a Newark native, America Reads/Counts has allowed me to give back to my city. I have enjoyed seeing the impact I have on inner city minds, as they improve their math and reading skills.”

Name: Itzel Miranda Santana
Major: Psychology
Classification: Sophomore
Work Site(s): Youth Build and Roseville Avenue School

“Education is important, and I try to get students to realize that.”
America Reads/Counts Tutor Profiles 2013-14

Name: Christine Murray  
Major: Undecided  
Classification: Freshman  
Work Site(s): American History High School

“My greatest success is hearing that the students I helped, got accepted to the colleges of their choice.”

Name: Sherene Murray  
Major: Psychology  
Classification: Senior  
Work Site(s): YouthBuild, Camden Street School

“The student I worked with received his G.E.D! I have enjoyed being able to serve the community where I grew up.”

Name: Anna Christine Navaja  
Major: Undecided  
Classification: Freshman  
Work Site(s): Great Oaks Charter School; Adelaide L. Sanford Charter School

“The students’ energy and enthusiasm really motivates me. I feel that I am making a difference.”
**America Reads/Counts Tutor Profiles 2013-14**

**Name: Ishita Parikh**  
Major: Accounting  
Classification: Transfer  
Work Site(s): I Have a Dream @ Great Oaks Charter  

“When I was in middle school and high school, I always felt that I needed help with some concepts. Now that I have learned these concepts, I am able to help someone else. This makes me feel good about my own educational journey.”

**Name: Zeel Patel**  
Major: Biology  
Classification: Freshman  
Work Site(s): Adelaide L. Sanford Charter  

“I love everything about America Reads/Counts.”

**Name: Joela Rivera**  
Major: Clinical Laboratory  
Classification: Freshman  
Work Site(s): Ann Street School, Newark Public Library Saturday Program  

“Dealing with some students who have Attention Deficit Disorder was difficult at times, but I began to enjoy working with the kids. It was a joy to be able to put a smile on their faces by making learning fun.”
America Reads/Counts Tutor Profiles 2013-14

Name: Melange Ramirez  
Major: Marketing and Finance  
Classification: Sophomore  
Work Site(s): YouthBuild

“It was a challenge getting the students to regain their hope and focus after they had given up, but I learned that everyone learns differently. This helps me to do my job more effectively.”

Name: Keziah Riddick  
Major: Undecided  
Classification: Freshman  
Work Site(s): American History High School

“I enjoy helping out the urban youth in Newark. I get motivated when I hear that the seniors I tutored, have been admitted into the colleges of their choice.”

Name: Jenifer Perez  
Major: Accounting  
Classification: Sophomore  
Work Site(s): Ann Street School, Newark Public Library Saturday Program

“It was great to see one of my students from 8th grade change from an “F” student to a “C” average student in Math.”
America Reads/Counts Tutor Roster 2013-14

Name: Tyesha Rogers
Major: Social Work
Classification: Transfer
Work Site(s): Camden Street School

“I have enjoyed working directly with children with disabilities. It is rewarding to help them with reading and being creative.”

Name: Fanny Sesay
Major: Undecided
Classification: Freshman
Work Site(s): Adelaide L Stanford Charter and Newark Public Library Saturday Program

“I have enjoyed helping my students to get through rough topics. I also have enjoyed meeting new people.”

Name: Gabriela Sevilla
Major: Public Service
Classification: Sophomore
Work Site(s): Great Oaks Charter, Youth B

“I love to change lives but it was a challenge to tutor students who gave up before they tried. I have learned that what the students need is a role model. They want to pass the GED. They want to be like me and go to Rutgers. I feel like I have changed their lives for the better.”
America Reads/Counts Tutor Roster 2013-13

Name: Ernnisa Williams
Major: Undecided
Classification: Freshman
Work Site(s): Administrative Office

“At first, it was not easy adjusting to the OUCP office work environment, but I have gained so many new skills. I love how I can work in the OUCP office and still feel a part of the close knit family of America Reads/Counts.”

Name: Derek Lewis
Major: Biology and Clinical Laboratory
Classification: Junior
Work Site(s): YouthBuild
According to the school’s website, “The mission of the Adelaide L. Sanford Charter School is to ensure that young people in Newark reach their highest educational potential through a standards based curriculum; a school culture of achievement and a continuous improvement; and a nurturing environment, all of which will, enable our students to become Newark's future leaders and core professionals.” The staff collaborates with families and community members to maximizes student learning and resources and provide cultural opportunities to enrich the lives of our students. They strive to equip their children with tools that will enable them to pursue the American Dream while being rooted in a strong sense of self and self-worth.

* * *

American History High School is a magnet secondary school serving ninth to twelfth grade students from the city of Newark. Since opening in 2006, students attending the school have scored consistently higher on standardized assessments than their peers throughout the city. The school prides itself on its academic achievements as well as its diversity. According to its mission statement, “American History High School is an Institute of Social Justice and Democracy committed to ensuring all students gain the social and academic skills needed to attend and graduate from an institution of higher learning. The shared efforts of students, parents, and staff will result in development of lifelong learners and productive citizens in the global community.” By achieving this mission, American History High School focuses on the three major C’s: Courage, Consciousness, and Commitment.
According to the official website, Ann Street School is a Newark public school consisting of 1300 students from prekindergarten to eighth grade. The school’s motto is “Be respectful, be responsible and get a good education.” Ann Street School promotes high academic standards, personal development and respect for everyone regardless of race, nationality, economic status or ability. Tutors focus on children who are identified as “at-risk”. They focus their attention on helping them with their homework as well as any other academic areas that the child may be facing problems with.

Ann Street School
“Be respectful, be responsible and get a good education”

The mission of Camden Street Elementary School is one like no other. Camden Street Elementary School strongly believes that leaders are not born but are made. They also believe that the determination of success is achieved by what happens in the schools, not by the circumstances around the school. The vision for Camden Street School students is that “All students at Camden Street Dream Academy will be provided with the skills they need to achieve their dreams and to challenge themselves, and others, to become innovative, high achievers who will use all available resources to positively impact their world as global citizens.”

Camden Street Elementary School
“Where Students become Leaders”

* * *

RESOURCES MANUAL 2013-14

Ann Street School
30 Ann Street, Newark, NJ 07105
(973) 465-4890

Tutors Assigned
Michelle Cermeno
Jenifer Perez

Camden Street Elementary School
281 Camden Street
Newark, NJ 07103
(973) 733-6994

Tutors Assigned
Leslie Fernandez

Photo Source: Ann Street School website

Photo Source: Camden Street School Website
First Avenue Elementary School hosts grades Pre-K through Eighth grade. They are conveniently located in the North Ward section of the City of Newark. First Avenue School focuses on academic standards aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. Along with these standards, First Avenue School also focuses on their main goal that is to “empower all students to achieve their maximum potential by committing the full range of its authority and resources by joining with all who seek excellence in teaching and learning. All students at First Avenue School will acquire language proficiency, mathematical skills and the necessary background in the arts and sciences needed to be successful in life. Every student will exhibit self-discipline and work towards good citizenship habits. Our entire staff shares the belief that all children can learn and is committed to ensuring that all students attain these goals. The First Avenue School Family will make each day at our school a day of growth for all.”
Great Oaks Charter School is co-located inside Burnett Street School. It is one of many new charter schools. According to the statistics, students who come to their school are low in many academic areas, reading, writing, and math. Due to these statistics many are made to believe that they have no chance of succeeding in college. In order to prove the statistics wrong, Great Oaks Charter School's main focus is to thoroughly prepare their students to succeed in college.

* * *

The I Have A Dream Program is one that is very unique. The program is set up to "allow children to have the opportunity to pursue higher education and to fully capitalize on their talents, aspirations, and leadership. The "I Have A Dream" Foundation also empowers children in low-income communities to achieve higher education and fulfill their leadership potential by providing them with guaranteed tuition support and equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and habits they need to gain entry to higher education and succeed in college." By helping their Dreamers gain access to college, they are putting them on a different academic and life trajectory, while having a broader impact on the students' families and generations that follow.
Founded in 1984, the Newark Literacy Campaign (NLC), Inc., leads literacy programs for adults, children, and families and is the coordinating agency for literacy services in the City of Newark. In conjunction with America Reads/Counts, NLC works to train all new tutors to the program in an effort to prepare them for the sometimes challenging yet often rewarding experience of tutoring in inner city schools. The Saturday Literacy Program was established in 1984. Its mission is to provide tutorial support in Math and English to children in the Greater Newark community who are identified as at risk. Tutoring is available most Saturdays between the hours of 9am to 1pm in the Newark Public Library. The program has a reputation for being very effective over the years.

* * *

According to the school’s website, Newton Street School truly believes “It takes a village to raise a child.” Newton Street School has a shared vision that states, “All achievers at Newton Street School will be engaged in cognitively challenging content that ignites their minds and inspires them to fulfill their dreams. Their achievement will leave a lasting impression in their community and the world.”
The mission of Roseville Avenue school is to become “a child-centered community school where stakeholders will provide a nurturing environment, which fosters social, emotional, and academic well-being by respecting each other’s individuality, diversity, and differences.” In achieving this mission Roseville Avenue school focuses on “setting high standards and expectations in a diverse and close-knit atmosphere. Our vision is to become a child-centered community school where stakeholders will provide a nurturing environment, which fosters social, emotional, and academic well-being by respecting each other’s individuality, diversity, and differences.”

* * *

St. Philip’s Academy
342 Central Avenue
Newark, NJ 07103
(973) 624-0644

Tutors Assigned
Georgina Cadillo
Shane Fuller

St Philips Academy
"Where Excellence Begins"

St. Philip’s Academy, a private school of the Episcopal tradition, strives to create within its students a love of learning, intellectual curiosity, and sense of duty to the community that will enable them to make thoughtful and morally informed decisions throughout their lives. According to the school’s website, St. Phillips Academy was founded in 1988 by Dillard Robinson and members of his congregation at the trinity and St. Phillips Episcopal Cathedral. Ever since, their mission has been to create a love of learning by preparing their kids for a lifetime of personal achievement and sense of duty to the community.
YouthBuild Newark (YBN) enables low income youth ages 16 to 24 to complete their secondary educational goals and to lead productive, self-sufficient lives. Through YBN’s intensive, year-long program, students are required to attend academic classes and to learn construction skills while rebuilding low-income housing, with a focus on green building techniques. As an AmeriCorps program, service is a key value of YBN. Students are taught to be engaged citizens and leaders who understand the importance of giving back to their communities. As YBN graduates, they can inspire others, uplift neighborhoods and provide a stable home for their children. As young people, they are critical to the survival of their communities. This is the second year that America Reads/Counts and YBN have collaborated. Ms. Wendy Cubano, Program Manager of YBN, reported that the newly established partnership with America Reads/Counts has been beneficial to YBN in various ways. Specifically, America Reads/Counts tutors are providing a much needed service to YBN participants.
YouthBuild Newark is a youth and community development agency that serves at risk youth and young adults ages 16 through 24, most of whom are out-of-school, re-entry and/or gang-affiliated. It weaves together education and workforce development. In its 10th year of operation, YBN has established itself as one of the most effective youth development programs in the Greater Newark area and throughout the state of New Jersey, and its effectiveness has systematically garnered local, state-wide and federal support.

YouthBuild Newark has enjoyed hosting America Reads tutors since the spring semester of 2012. America Reads tutors have been a valuable addition to our program. Having college students present in our space has made the possibility of attending college more tangible for our students. The tutors are very forthcoming with challenges they have faced academically and economically as they relate to post-secondary education and how they were able to overcome them. They are very relatable and approachable. They tackle the challenge of tutoring from a place of empathy and support, rather than highlighting our students’ academic deficiencies.

YouthBuild students enjoy all of their interactions with the America Reads tutors. Students have shared with staff that the tutors serve as an inspiration for their own post-secondary success. Serendipitously, organic mentoring has been an outgrowth of the tutoring relationship. Tutors have been able to develop an extremely positive rapport with students. They have helped our program better help our students. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with America Reads and hosting future tutors.

- Wendy Cubano, Program Manager

**Kydir Walker (YouthBuild)**

I started coming to Youthbuild six months ago, and I joined the America Reads/Counts program four months ago. Although my time with the program is short, I definitely feel like I improved a lot, especially in math. Gabby and Itzel really took the time to explain how to solve different kinds of math problems. Even though I didn’t always get it right away, they would try new techniques to help me understand. I feel much more confident in the subject now. What I really love, though, is reading. The tutors from Rutgers take that into account and encourage me to follow my passions, while making sure I still get a well-rounded education. They’re all nice and very supportive. With help from the America Reads/Counts program, I’m hopeful that I can work hard to fulfill my dream of becoming a psychologist.
Janice Perry (YouthBuild)
The tutors at America Reads/Counts are wonderful. They really care about us, and I appreciate them for that. I remember, one day, I was feeling very stressed out, because I wasn’t understanding what they were teaching in class. No matter how hard I tried by myself, I just couldn’t get it. I was so frustrated that I packed my things and decided to leave for that day. But as I was on my way out, one of the tutors, Itzel, chased after me. She calmed me down, and when she convinced me to stay, she sat with me to go over the subject. After only 20 minutes, everything became much clearer. I’m touched by the tutors’ dedication to us, and I’m so happy to be a part of the program. It taught me how to be a better person. In the future, I want to be a social worker to help others like me. This program gives me the tools I need to get to where I want to be.

Keith Williams (YouthBuild)
I've really enjoyed my time in the America Reads/Counts program so far. The tutors are always willing to help, and they do a great job. When we're lost in class, they're there to guide us and give us direction. To help us work out math problems, they would explain the problem from all angles and aspects. That also helped us make connections with topics we covered in the past. I used to hate math before, but after Milange and the other tutors sat down with me and took it step by step, I understood it more and more. Now, math is my favorite subject. The tutors also assist in improving our study skills. In class when I found myself dozing off, Itzel would always bring me back. We have a running joke that Itzel ‘don’t take no shorts,’ because she's persistent in making sure we get everything. All the tutors taught me better ways to focus, and they motivated me to work for what I want. The program is beneficial for all the students here.

Amirah Wright (YouthBuild)
The America Reads/Counts program is helping students like us learn what we need to know for a successful professional career, and I think it's doing just that. The tutors spend their time and effort ensuring we're comfortable with the material, so that we can do amazing on our GEDs. They genuinely support our goals, and it shows. Not only are they great with teaching us academic subjects, but they also advise us about our personal goals. The other day I was sitting in the lounge with Itzel, Sims, Milange, and Gabby and talking about applying to Rutgers, which I'm planning to do. Even though I'm applying from Youthbuild rather than a proper high school, the tutors strongly encouraged me to go for it. I felt so motivated by their words, and they gave me a sense of ambition that I never really felt before. I've always wanted to become a nurse, but I used to think that I'm not good enough, that I don't have the patience. I used to always be angry, believing the world owed me something more. But not anymore. The tutors helped change my attitude and outlook on life. They help turn my dreams into reality, and I'm going to work harder than ever for...
Work Site Supervisor & Tutee Feedback

Camden Street School

In regards to America Reads/Counts Program, having the tutors at Camden Street School has been instrumental in helping our students improve their literacy skills. We truly enjoy having America Reads/Counts Program tutors because they provide exactly what our students need, interns of small groups and individual reading assistance. Our scores last year on NJASK in grades 3 - 8 in literacy averaged just over 18% proficiency. Thus, 82% of our children are not on reading level. We need America Reads tutors to help us and they have proven to be valuable for some of our highest need students. Students in Ms. Burth’s third grade class, Ms. Ballard’s first grade class, and Ms. Minns-Lewis’ third grade class look forward to having America Reads tutors come and provide that special attention that many of our students crave. Consistency is what really matters to Camden students. Having tutors that are professional, reliable, and dedicated to our kids is what we care about and what makes the students ask, "when is Sherene coming back? I want Miss Tyesha to help me more!" America Reads tutors have provided a positive connection for our children and a way for them to focus on their reading skills. We hope we are able to have America Reads tutors back in our building impacting our students next year and in the years to come. My only request for next year is to have more America Reads tutors at Camden Street. Our students need help, they need consistency, and they need to feel that someone truly cares about their ability to read and believes that they are powerful, limitless human beings with bright futures ahead of them.

-Dr. Shirley Brewton

Ann Street School

This is my second year overseeing the America Reads/Counts program at Ann Street. We have thirteen students participating in the program, and the program covers mostly math and language arts. I believe the program has greatly benefited us. Some of the students have improved their grades in subjects that were troubling them before. The tutors sent to us were super as well. They were pleasant, easy going, and willing to work. They do a great job helping our students. Our students responded very well especially Joela Rivera, and they have commented on how helpful she was with math. Not only do tutors help academically, but they also present themselves as role models because they come to work dressed professionally and act professionally. The students look forward to working with the tutors, and I enjoy working with the college students as well. I hope that America Reads/Counts continues because it helps us offer resources to our students who do not have the financial means to seek tutoring. That’s why we would love to have tutors back next year. It has been a fantastic experience.

-Linda J. Richardson

Art work by Elementary students of Camden Street School and Adelaide L. Sanford Charter School
Work Site Supervisor & Tutee Feedback

Zimbreah (Adelaide Sanford Charter School)

“I’ve been coming to this school for four years. I enjoy working with the tutors because they’re helpful, and when the teachers are too busy we can rely on them. I’d like the tutors to come back next year because we’re going to be busier. The tutors will help us learn all the new material. My favorite memory is when Ms. Zeel helped me in science class, but my favorite subject is math. I love working with numbers. It’s really fun. In the future, I want to be a singer or actress, because my sister and I sing and act all the time at home. I also want to be a lawyer because I want to help people, and I think I have the voice to do so.”

Tyra (Adelaide Sanford Charter School)

“This is my fifth year at Adelaide Sanford. I like being in the America Reads/Counts program, because the tutors help me when the teacher is busy. When the teacher says ‘one second, Tyra,’ a tutor comes and teaches me instead. It would be great if more tutors can come next year, because 8th grade material is more complicated, and the teachers are going to need the extra assistance. My favorite moment in the program was when Ms. Zeel showed me a different way to multiply fractions. Before that, the method we learned in class wasn’t working for me, and I was struggling. The pace of the class seemed really fast too. I’m really glad that I’m improving in math with the help of the tutors. The subjects I’m better at, are reading and writing. I really like them, because they let me express myself. I have a lot of things I want to do, but some of them are to become a veterinarian, a CSI detective, and/or a 911 operator. I have many different interests from what I see on TV, so I’m not sure what I want to do. I hope I can experience a variety of jobs in my future.”

Art work by Elementary students of Camden Street School and Adelaide L. Sanford Charter School
Aliza (Adelaide Sanford Charter School)

“I’ve been attending this school for two years now. The America Reads/Counts tutors are nice and helpful. Being in the program has been a fun experience, and I hope that even more tutors come back next year because 8th grade math is going to be more difficult with variable equations. I really like the way the tutors teach. When I was having trouble finishing an essay, they guided me to make my essay better. They give specific comments so I can improve my writing. For example, with my essay, they advised me to work on the hook. My favorite subject is ELA, so their feedback is valuable to me. Later on, I want to become a cosmetologist since I like doing other people’s hair.”

Dwayne (Adelaide Sanford Charter School)

“I came to Adelaide in the second grade, so I’ve been here for six years. I like the tutors of America Reads/Counts a lot. If I raise my hand, and the teacher is too busy to respond to me, the tutor comes over to help, and they really take the time to be thorough. I can tell they want us to understand the material fully. Having tutors again next year would be good, because math is going to be a lot harder. Actually, I wished tutors came every day. Their assistance is valuable. I remember when I was writing a book for fun, I needed a name for the girl character, so I used Ms. Zeel’s name. She really supported my writing. I love reading and writing, because it’s a means of self expression. I want to become an author and illustrator for science fiction stories. I also enjoy entertaining people, so I want to try being a singer, dancer, or actor.”

Jerome (Adelaide Sanford Charter School)

“I’ve been here at Adelaide for two years. I enjoy being in the America Reads/Counts program, because sometimes the teachers don’t explain the topic in a way that I could understand. But the tutors will work hard to explain it in different ways to me so that it becomes easier to comprehend. I hope to see the tutors again next year. They’re especially helpful when the teacher is going too fast, and I feel like I’m falling behind a little. My favorite subject is math, because it’s straight-forward and unambiguous. Since I like math, I plan to be an engineer. I really want to work in the military as a weapons engineer. I’m not a terrorist, but I’m really into weapons. I like learning how they work, and I’m also interested in the mechanics of aircrafts. Machines just fascinate me.”
On February 6, 2013, America Reads/Counts held it’s annual mid year meeting. This meeting was conducted to check on the tutors regarding their progress with their sites, as well as to gather feedback in their evaluation of the program overall. This year the group heard from two former America Reads/Count’s tutors who talked about their experience with America Reads/Counts and how it prepared them for their present work with the Urban Education Fellowship Program at Great Oaks Charter School. The two lady’s talked about the advantages of working with the program they are in especially since many of our tutors are studying in the field of education. They provided information about how to get involved with the program and they spoke about their experience with the program as well. Below are highlights from feedback surveys that the tutors completed at the mid year meeting.

Greatest success working with America Reads/Counts:
⇒ Seeing one of my students from 8th grade come from an “F” student to a “C” average student in Math.
⇒ Learning that everyone learns differently, it helps me do my job effectively.
⇒ My greatest success would be being able to be part of the kid’s life and letting me help them.
⇒ Seeing my student become more enthusiastic about schoolwork.

Greatest challenge working with America Reads/Counts:
⇒ Dealing with learning impaired students.
⇒ Making the America Reads newsletter and updating the database.
⇒ Dealing with kids who have ADHD.
⇒ Getting the students to regain their hope and focus after they have given up.
⇒ Tutoring students who give up before they try.

Motivator as a tutor with America Reads:
⇒ Seeing the impact I have on inner city minds, as they improve their Math and Reading skills.
⇒ Satisfaction of helping younger kids understand their school work.
⇒ The kids are fun to work with and actually put in effort if you motivate them.
⇒ I have always liked being a role model. I can motivate students to look their best and achieve the best education.
⇒ The joy of students and their eagerness to learn.

Making a difference in students’ academic lives:
⇒ 100%, as a Latino male, most of my students are minority and the impact I have on their lives is enormous.
⇒ Through my instructions, students gained an overall grasp of the material at hand and improved certain writing skills.
⇒ Once they realize their potential, they see what they are capable of.
⇒ The feeling when they look for me to help them is a feeling of making a difference.

Best features about the program:
⇒ Availability of different opportunities.
⇒ Reaching different demographics i.e., elementary, middle, and high school students.
⇒ Meeting so many people and getting influenced by them.
⇒ I love how I can work in the office and still feel a part of the close knit family of America Reads/Counts.
⇒ I like that it’s community service oriented and that I can get involved in the community of Newark rather than just working on-campus.