

Housed at The University of Southern Mississippi, the Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE) was established on November 1, 2000, to administer the Lighthouse Partnerships program funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service Learn and Serve America initiative. The Center for Community and Civic Engagement empowers citizens through democratic dialogue and action to improve educational opportunities and achievement by fostering sustained alliances between Mississippi educational institutions and communities.

Building on its success with the Lighthouse Partnerships, the CCCE has expanded to administer three additional programs: AmeriCorps*VISTA, Reading Is Fundamental, and Campus Link AmeriCorps. In addition, the CCCE provides faculty fellowships, technical assistance training, curriculum certification, and is in collaboration with The University of Southern Mississippi's Office of Community Service Learning to develop an American Humanics nonprofit management program.

Among its other core activities, the CCCE:

- promotes **civic engagement** as broad, inclusive and direct participation in the search for the public good that renews and enriches earlier conceptions of democracy;
- values diverse **partnerships** between K-16 institutions and community-based organizations that focus on civic responsibility and community needs; and
- provides a framework that links service with curriculum and promote information and resources for community **service-learning** opportunities.

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