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Robert and Yvonne Koob Fund for Student
Community Engagement

Spring 2017

Vanessa McNeal - Together for Youth

Vanessa McNeal

University of Northern Colorado

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Recommended Citation

McNeal, Vanessa, "Vanessa McNeal - Together for Youth" (2017). *Robert and Yvonne Koob Fund for Student Community Engagement Recipients*. 27.

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Vanessa McNeal - Together for Youth

Robert and Yvonne Koob Fund for Student Community Engagement

Instructions: Please work with your internship supervisor to fill out this form. Once completed, return to Julianne Gassman (julianne.gassman@uni.edu).

Name: Vanessa McNeal **Agency** Together For Youth

Intern's Phone Number and E-mail Address _____

Organization Contact Person and Phone Joni Spencer _____

Academic Advisor Person and Phone Dr. Steven Onken _____

Future Plans for student: _____

What did you accomplish during your internship?

I had the opportunity to advance my facilitation, and motivational interviewing skills on a micro level. I led numerous health education sessions, led the Great American Condom Campaign, and this project.

How did the internship benefit the student?

I had the opportunity to collaborate with community agencies and I learned invaluable lessons from my site supervisor and agency staff. The internship was a stepping stone in my professional career. I learned how to be a better social worker here.

How did the internship benefit the agency?

Vanessa brought a high level of knowledge around the issue of sexual assault. She was able to further educate staff within the agency on the topic as well as share resources available. Sexual violence is an important component of sexual health education. Vanessa brought fresh ideas on ways to educate the public and respond to survivors.

How does the internship benefit the community?

Vanessa created an event which was open to the public; she even had the foresight to offer CEUs. The event brought together an eclectic mix of community providers: medical staff, school counselors, mental health counselors, early childhood home visitors, parent educators, adolescent health educators, and medical students. By offering information from both

survivors and professionals in the field of sexual assault survivor advocacy, Vanessa was able to educate a pool of service providers that may otherwise not get continuing education on how to best provide care to survivors.

(Student to complete) One quote that describes the experience gained from completing this internship (to be used for promotional materials; please specify author of quote)?

“I have learned invaluable lessons through my placement at Together For Youth. All of the staff invested in me in a way that has furthered my professional development” - Vanessa McNeal

(Intern supervisor to complete) One quote that describes the impact the intern had on the community (to be used for promotional materials; please specify author of quote)?

“Vanessa brought together an eclectic crowd of community providers to better educate them on sexual assault and how to better respond to survivors. She identified a need in our community, demonstrated expertise in the content area, organized and marketed a large event, and demonstrated impeccable public speaking skills.” – Libby Fry

Please provide a reproducible photo of the intern in action at their internship for media purposes.

