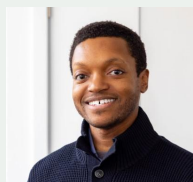


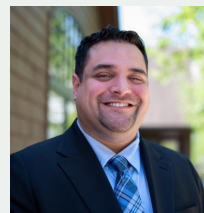


2026 RAISE Texas VITA Conference

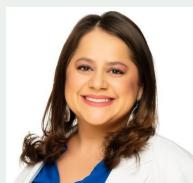
High School Service Learning: Engaging Students in VITA



**Moderator: Darren Liddell,
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SimplifyCT**



**Linda Nunez, Assistant VP of GECU
Community Development**



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Temple High School**

**Steve Baca, Student
Temple High School CTE VITA Program**





Career & Technical Education

VITA Program





The Training

- Classroom instruction by the teacher on basic tax concepts, IRS rules, and ethical standards.
- Guided practice using IRS training modules so students can earn their VITA certification.



The Experience

- Hands-on software training where the teacher walks students through preparing sample tax returns step by step.
- Role-playing and client simulations led by the teacher to practice interviews, customer service, and confidentiality before serving real clients.

GECU FCU

Linda Nunez– AVP of Community Development



VITA



High School Sites





THANK YOU

High School Service Learning through VITA

Since 2009, Connecticut students have built financial and career skills while providing free tax assistance to their communities.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Connecticut high school students have participated in VITA since 2009. New Britain High School was the first to launch the program a comprehensive internship combining financial literacy, tax preparation training, and supervised service.

HOW STUDENTS LEARN

Classroom Preparation

Students train in tax law, software, customer service, and the needs of low-income taxpayers.

80+

STUDENTS ACROSS
CENTRAL CT SCHOOLS

120

HOUR WORK-BASED
INTERNSHIP

12

HOURS OF FINANCIAL
LITERACY

14

PAID STUDENT
INTERNS

100%

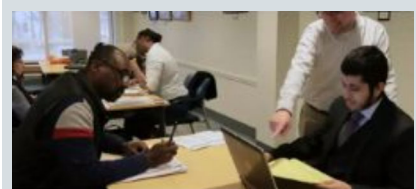
VIRTUAL
PARTICIPATION

Supervised Practice

Experienced VITA professionals guide students as they apply their skills to real tax returns.



Training



Mentoring



Student Cohorts

SimplifyCT
Serving CT Families

THE NAF CONNECTION

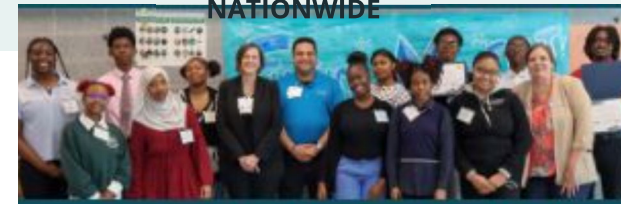
The Academy of Business and Finance recruits students and anchors work-based learning in the classroom. VITA extends that learning beyond school through supervised taxpayer service.

2026 VIRTUAL EXPANSION

SimplifyCT, ReadyCT, and Weaver High School brought the model fully online. Fourteen paid interns completed more than 500 returns nationwide through GetYourRefund.

500+

RETURNS
COMPLETED
NATIONWIDE



2026 WEAVER HIGH SCHOOL COHORT