Community Profile

Population 2,260

Location Vernonia

Position Description

Sponsor City of Vernonia

Supervisor Robyn Bassett,
City Administrator

Assignment The RARE participant will work on a variety of projects with the City of Vernonia. The first will involve working closely with a new community facility, the Vernon Community Learning Center, which will offer courses and activities for all age groups. The participant will create the Center's business plan and will work to increase awareness of its programs throughout the community. As a second project, the participant will work closely with city administration to update its Comprehensive Plan to reflect important changes to existing ordinances. Finally, the RARE participant will conduct a community-wide surveying project, intended to solicit input on city services.

Required Skills The ideal RARE participant will have good communication skills with strong public relations experience preferred. Basic computer skills are a must, and advanced skills are preferred. The RARE participant should have excellent research and organizational skills.

RARE Member

Benjamin Shumaker graduated from Louisiana State University with a joint degree in Sociology, History, International Studies and German. While there, he entered into the planning field while interning with the Baton Rouge City Planning Commission. Since graduation, Ben worked as a field technician for an engineering firm in Wisconsin. He hopes to work towards a career in City Planning.