



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
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Washington State Honors AmeriCorps Members During AmeriCorps Week

OLYMPIA, WA —Governor Chris Gregoire proclaimed the week of May 13-20, 2007 as AmeriCorps Week in Washington and encouraged all citizens to salute AmeriCorps members and alums for the powerful impact their service has in addressing unmet needs in communities across our state. The first-ever AmeriCorps Week marks an historic milestone as AmeriCorps prepares to welcome its 500,000th member. Since it was established by Congress in 1994, more than 19,000 individuals from Washington State have served in AmeriCorps.

“AmeriCorps members have made important contributions in Washington, addressing our state’s most pressing needs,” said Bill Basl, executive director of Washington Commission for National and Community Service. “AmeriCorps Week provides an opportunity to thank the members who have served in our state, recognize the work that they are accomplishing, and encourage others to serve as AmeriCorps members.”

Although the federal government supplies much of the funding for AmeriCorps members, governors play a key role in deciding how those funds will be spent. Members of the Washington Commission for National and Community Service, who are appointed by Governor Chris Gregoire, review and approve applications for the AmeriCorps grants that are awarded in the state. This allows Washington to focus on the issues that are of greatest concern in the state.

In addition to their own service, AmeriCorps members multiply their efforts by recruiting numerous community residents to volunteer alongside them. In 2006, the nation’s approximately 75,000 AmeriCorps members recruited 1.2 million volunteers. AmeriCorps members typically remain engaged in their communities once their service is complete. They not only can be counted on as volunteers, but they also run nonprofits and marshal resources within their communities to address difficult issues.

Upon completion of their term of service, AmeriCorps members are eligible to receive the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$4,725, which can be used to pay back student loans or cover future tuition costs. AmeriCorps members in Washington have received more than \$59 million in education awards since 1994.

Many AmeriCorps programs are planning service events during AmeriCorps Week, allowing Washingtonians an opportunity to learn about, and participate in, AmeriCorps activities. For details, visit: <http://myproject.nationalservice.gov/public/searchResults.aspx?State=WA&Type=1>

To learn more about participating in AmeriCorps, contact the Washington State Commission for National and Community Service at (360) 902-0656 or <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/servewa/>.

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