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Alaska Honored AmeriCorps Members During AmeriCorps Week

(Anchorage, AK) – Alaska joined the nationwide celebration of AmeriCorps Week, March 10-18, spotlighting the vital work done by AmeriCorps members in communities across Alaska since the national service program began 18 years ago.

This year more than 350 AmeriCorps members are serving in Alaska, helping students learn to read, mentoring at-risk youth, providing health services, building homes for low-income families, and helping nonprofits recruit volunteers and achieve their mission.

"We are proud to be part of AmeriCorps and grateful for the AmeriCorps members who are getting things done for Alaska," said Nita Madsen, Executive Director of the State Service Commission, *Serve Alaska*. "AmeriCorps members have made a significant impact on Alaska's ability to meet so many local needs, and AmeriCorps Week is a perfect opportunity to recognize their great work."

AmeriCorps works through existing organizations and helps them reach more people and better achieve their mission. Since 1994, more than 775,000 men and women have joined AmeriCorps, and they have given over 1 billion hours of service to their country.

In 2011, Alaska AmeriCorps members:

- Tutored or mentored more than 19,280 disadvantaged children and youth;

- Provided more than 285,230 hours of service valued at more than \$6,092,450;
- Recruited more than 12,750 volunteers; and
- Raised more than \$3,640,000 in cash or in-kind resources for the organizations they served.

Upon completion of their term of service, AmeriCorps members are eligible to receive the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$5,550, which can be used to pay back student loans or cover future tuition costs. AmeriCorps members in Alaska have received more than \$8,800,000 in education awards since 1994.

In Alaska, AmeriCorps operated through Serve Alaska, an independent corporate agency operating under the auspices of the state Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

AmeriCorps Week, March 10-18, 2012, was an annual recruitment and recognition event to demonstrate AmeriCorps' impact on critical issues, bring more Americans into service, and thank the community partners who make AmeriCorps possible. AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. For more information, visit www.AmeriCorpsWeek.gov.

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