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Commissioner

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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AmeriCorps Alaska Member Receives National Recognition of Excellence in AmeriCorps Awards

Tuesday, December 26th, 2023 (Anchorage, AK)— Serve Alaska State Service Commission is proud to announce the recognition of AmeriCorps member, Joanna Urive, at the Excellence in AmeriCorps Awards in Washington D.C. last month, where she was presented the “Innovative Service” award. This national-level award celebrates the impactful contributions of individuals and organizations making a positive difference in their communities. AmeriCorps State and National programs annually recognize excellence in categories such as impactful service, inclusive service, innovative service, and lifetime of service.

Joanna Urive served as an AmeriCorps member at the Public Defender Agency in Anchorage, which provides a unique opportunity for clients involved in the legal system at the early stages to receive assistance navigating the social services network. Clients often struggle with access to basic needs and the assistance of AmeriCorps members helps to alleviate that need, including treatment programs that help mitigate criminal matters, but also expand into support that benefits clients in their day-to-day lives. Ms. Urive developed her clients’ care beyond the expectation of an AmeriCorps member by utilizing a promotion offered at her second job for the betterment of the clients at the Public Defender Agency.

Joanna's remarkable commitment to service not only earned her the prestigious Excellence in AmeriCorps Award but also presented her with a unique opportunity. She had the honor of attending the awards ceremony in person, where she met elected officials representing Alaska in Washington, D.C.

"We are immensely proud of Joanna Urive and her exceptional achievements in service. Joanna and all AmeriCorps members in the state inspire me with their passion and dedication to tirelessly work towards positive change in our communities," said **Katie Abbott, Executive Director of the Serve Alaska State Commission.**

Join us in applauding Joanna's outstanding achievement and celebrating the collective impact of AmeriCorps members across the nation. AmeriCorps is not just a program; it's a movement of passionate individuals dedicated to making a positive difference in communities far and wide. For more information about Serve Alaska and AmeriCorps, please visit servealaska.alaska.gov.

Serve Alaska promotes and supports volunteerism across the state and brings AmeriCorps programs to Alaska. It is overseen by no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 voting Commission members appointed by the Governor. The Serve Alaska sub-grantees operate in almost every region of the state, bringing much-needed support and training to rural and urban Alaska. Serve Alaska is housed within the Division for

Community and Regional Affairs and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development at the State of Alaska.

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for volunteerism and national service, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency invests more than \$800 million in grants for local nonprofit, community, tribal, and state organizations; places more than 250,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers. Learn more at AmeriCorps.gov.

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