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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### **AmeriCorps Week highlights volunteerism**

Anchorage, Alaska – Alaska will join the nationwide celebration of AmeriCorps Week, May 14-21, spotlighting the vital work done by AmeriCorps members in communities across Alaska since the national service program began 17 years ago.

More than 370 AmeriCorps members are serving in Alaska this year, 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, 706,000 men and women have joined AmeriCorps, and they have given more than 860 million hours of service to their country.

In 2010, Alaska AmeriCorps members:

- Tutored or mentored more than 31,960 disadvantaged children and youth;
- Provided more than 371,000 hours of service valued at more than \$7.7 million;
- Recruited more than 15,980 volunteers; and
- Raised more than \$634,800 in cash or in-kind resources for the organizations where 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 \$8.2 million in education awards since 1994.

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

“The spirit of volunteerism engendered by AmeriCorps is actively improving the lives of Alaskans around the state and helping the department fulfill its mission of promoting healthy economies and strong communities,” DCCED Commissioner Susan Bell said.

AmeriCorps Week, May 14-21, is 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](http://www.AmeriCorpsWeek.gov), or [www.commerce.alaska.gov/serve/home.htm](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov/serve/home.htm).