

MEDIA RELEASE
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First Lady Sally Ganem Recognized for Support of National Service

LINCOLN, Neb. – On Monday, February 11, Nebraska First Lady Sally Ganem was awarded for her support for national service at the “Friends of National Service” reception hosted in Washington, DC.

First Lady Ganem is the recipient of the State Leadership Award, which is awarded to individuals for leadership and innovation in leveraging national service to meet state needs. The First Lady currently serves as Honorary Chair of ServeNebraska, the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission since 2005, when her husband, Dave Heineman, became Governor. Since then, she has embraced the role as an active participant in furthering the mission of ServeNebraska, leading local service opportunities, regularly spreading the importance of service in public addresses, and identifying ways to expand service opportunities to address some of Nebraska’s most pressing challenges. The former principal of Howard Elementary School in Fremont, Sally has a special passion for increasing the quality of life for children and families.

Previous winners of the State Leadership Award include Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour and Iowa Governor Chet Culver.

National service addresses critical issues in communities across the country by providing the human capital needed to support education and health care initiatives, coordinate disaster relief and prevention and enable senior independence. Through this work, national service members deliver as much as \$3.00 worth of services for every federal dollar invested, making service and volunteerism a smart investment in an era of limited federal resources.

“First Lady Sally Ganem is a leader in channeling the civic energy in Nebraska to address pressing community needs,” AnnMaura Connolly, President of Voices for National Service said. “Now more than ever, support from leaders like First Lady Ganem is essential to ensuring national service opportunities are expanded to tap energy, creativity, optimism and patriotism of all Americans in addressing our country’s greatest challenges.”

Upon receiving the award, First Lady Ganem stated, “I am very happy to represent Nebraska and accept this award on behalf of all our citizens. I am very proud of the volunteer work we do in Nebraska. When we extend ourselves to help others we are investing in our state and our own future. The more you give, the more you get back.”

For a complete list of honorees and details of the awards, visit
http://www.voicesforservice.org/events/fons13/Form_FONS13_Regis.php#list

ServeNebraska mobilizes Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs. To learn more, visit www.serve.nebraska.gov.

Voices for National Service, <http://www.voicesforservice.org/> is a diverse coalition of national service programs, state service commissions and individual champions, who advocate to ensure Americans of all ages have the opportunity to serve and volunteer in their community. Founded in 2003, Voices for National Service has build strong bipartisan support among our nation's leaders and helped position national service as a viable policy solution to tackle unmet needs, expand opportunity, and leverage human capital.

The Corps Network, <http://www.corpsnetwork.org/> is a proud advocate and representative of the nation's Service and Conservation Corps. Their number one goal is to sustain and grow the Corps movement. The Corps Network's member Service and Conservation Corps operate in 42 states and the District of Columbia. Over 26,000 Corps members, ages 16-25, contribute and generate more than 16 million hours of service annually.

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