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ServeNebraska Mobilizes Nebraskans to Strengthen Their Communities Through Volunteering, Collaboration and National Service Programs.



2015 Symposium: Celebration of Service

Celebrating Stories of Service from:



Center for People in Need
3901 N. 27th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska
May 15, 2015
9:30am-4:00pm

"THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF IS TO LOSE YOURSELF IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS."

~MAHATMA GANDHI

AMERICORPS IN NEBRASKA



AmeriCorps members are talented individuals who, through sustained service, devote themselves to addressing our state's most pressing needs through AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps members serve at local nonprofit or governmental organizations which have applied for and received competitive grants.

The benefit is further extended through volunteers mobilized and trained by AmeriCorps members.





The AmeriCorps Pledge

***I will get things done for America -
to make our people safer,
smarter, and healthier.***

***I will bring Americans together
to strengthen our communities.***

***Faced with apathy,
I will take action.***

***Faced with conflict,
I will seek common ground.***

***Faced with adversity,
I will persevere.***

***I will carry this commitment
with me this year and beyond.***

***I am an AmeriCorps member,
and I will get things done.***

2015 SYMPOSIUM: CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

PROGRAM

9:00-9:30 REGISTRATION

9:30-9:45 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
CATHY PLAGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SERVE NEBRASKA

9:45-10:30 AMERICORPS PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

10:30-11:15 ANASTAZIA BAUER-SCHEER
SENIOR HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALIST – BOYSTOWN

11:15-12:00 AMERICORPS PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

12:00-1:00 LUNCH
SEGAL EDUCATIONAL AWARD TRUST INFO SESSION

1:00-1:15 BREAKTIME

1:15-2:00 AMERICORPS PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

2:00-2:15 PROJECT VIEWING

2:15-3:00 AMERICORPS PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

3:00-4:00 MARK J. LINDQUIST
AUTHOR OF "SERVICE! MY WAY OF LIFE"

*****CLOSING*****

**NEBRASKA AMERICORPS
FORMULA & COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS**

The programs below are provided by local Nebraska organizations benefitting their fellow Nebraskans:

BVCA AmeriCorps

– Blue Valley Community Action Partnership

College Possible Omaha AmeriCorps – *College Possible*

Healthy Rural Communities AmeriCorps – *Volunteers of America,
Western Nebraska*

MCC*Corps AmeriCorps – *Metropolitan Community College*

MMI AmeriCorps – *Munroe Meyer Institute,
University of Nebraska Medical Center*

Nebraska Economic Opportunity Corps AmeriCorps
– *Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska*

PROH AmeriCorps – *Center for People in Need*

RISE AmeriCorps – *Nebraska State Probation*

Rural Corps of South Central Nebraska AmeriCorps
– *Kearney Public Schools Foundation*

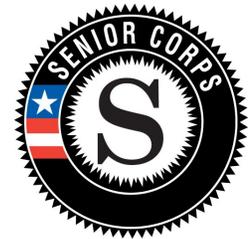
UNL Extension AmeriCorps – *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

YouthBuild Omaha AmeriCorps – *Goodwill Industries*

Youth on the Move AmeriCorps – *City of Lincoln*

YWCA Adams County AmeriCorps – *YWCA Adams County*

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE!**



SERVENEBRASKA

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ANDY GOSPODARSKI
MARKETING SPECIALIST



New ServeNebraska Commissioner Deborah Neary introduces AmeriCorps projects



All smiles as AmeriCorps members visit with each other and make arts & crafts

NEBRASKA AMERICORPS INDIAN TRIBES PROGRAMS

The following AmeriCorps programs are provided by federally recognized Nebraska tribes:

Bright Futures AmeriCorps – Omaha Tribe

NEBRASKA AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECT PROGRAMS

Each of the programs below are part of larger national efforts with a presence benefitting Nebraskans:

Compact Service Corps AmeriCorps – University of Nebraska

Cooking Matters AmeriCorps – Visiting Nurse Association Omaha

Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps – Habitat for Humanity Omaha

**Student Conservation Association (SCA) AmeriCorps
– Homestead National Monument**

**Veterans Leaders Corps – Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska
& Nebraskans For Civic Reform**

**Learn More About AmeriCorps in Nebraska
at
www.serve.nebraska.gov**

2015 SYMPOSIUM: CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AUTHORS & ARTISTS

MORNING CELEBRATIONS

NEBRASKA ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY CORPS AMERICORPS

"WHY AMERICORPS?"

TEGAN GORMON – RISE AMERICORPS, HASTINGS

"RISE"

KATIE DURFEE – BVCA AMERICORPS, FAIRBURY

"YES WE CAN!"

MCC*CORPS AMERICORPS, OMAHA

"WITH WATER AND SUNSHINE!"

YOUTHBUILD OMAHA AMERICORPS

"TRUE SCALE HOUSE FRAMING"

SIERRA CARRINGTON – BVCA AMERICORPS VISTA

"PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS"

MMI AMERICORPS, OMAHA

"MMI AMERICORPS EXPERIENCES"

YWCA ADAMS COUNTY AMERICORPS, HASTINGS

"YWCA AMERICORPS REFLECTIONS"

AFTERNOON CELEBRATIONS

RURAL CORPS OF SOUTH CENTRAL NEBRASKA, KEARNEY

"FACE OF IMPACT"

PROH AMERICORPS, LINCOLN

"BRIDGES"

UNL EXTENSION AMERICORPS

"NEBRASKA EXTENSION & AMERICORPS"

MCC*CORPS AMERICORPS, OMAHA

"GIVING TREE"

SANDRA RENNER – HEALTHY RURAL COMMUNITIES AMERICORPS, LYONS

"GROWING HEALTHY RURAL MINDS"

COLLEGE POSSIBLE OMAHA AMERICORPS

"MAKING COLLEGE POSSIBLE: COLLEGE POSSIBLE OMAHA 2014-2015"

BVCA AMERICORPS, FAIRBURY

"HOW DO YOU FEEL?"

2015 SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Anastazia Bauer-Scheer

AmeriCorps Alumni Speaker

Senior Human Resource Specialist, BoysTown



After completing a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Anastazia's passion for working smart and hard grew into service for others in the form of a year with RISE AmeriCorps. Currently, she holds a Master's of Science in Organizational Management and is certified as both a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) and Society of Human Resource Management Certified Professional (SHRM-CP).

Anastazia has combined her service to others and her passion for HR in her current role. She has been in charge of such areas as staff trainings, wellness programs, employee handbooks and compliance standards. One of her favorite parts of her job is her involvement with auditing. She has had a 100% success rate with every audit she has led. When Anastazia is not preventing the wheels from falling off the HR wagon, she enjoys spending time with the Youth around campus and volunteering in the community.



Mark J. Lindquist

Motivational Speaker

Author of *Service! My Way of Life*

Mark J. Lindquist is a nationally recognized motivational speaker and world-touring entertainer who has performed live for over 1,000,000 people in 22 countries and 44 states throughout his career. He is also the author of the books, "Passion! 8 Steps to Find Yours" and "Service, My Way of Life."

As an actor, he has appeared in ABC's LOST, CBS' Hawaii Five-O and the Universal Studios movie "Battleship." He has performed for Grammy winning artists, Academy Award nominated actors, foreign dignitaries around the world as well as staffers at the White House.

Mark is a former Sergeant in the United States Air Force and an Afghanistan War Veteran who currently lives in Fargo, North Dakota. Information on his company can be found at www.BreathIsLimited.com

"HOW DO YOU FEEL?"

LIVE PERFORMANCE

THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER

AmeriCorps Program: BVCA AmeriCorps, Fairbury

Participants: Christopher Scolari, Erison Duntz, Amanda Harroun, Kia Bray, April Nelson, Michelle Brinkmann, Dakota Mason, Darci Gobber, Brittney Schwartz

Service Description: BVCA AmeriCorps members help build the capacity of Blue Valley Community Action Partnership to serve families and children in need.

Service Highlight: We are small town Nebraska; struggling to survive and hoping to someday thrive. Our goal is to help youth reach their full potential. Too many young people today feel completely disconnected. AmeriCorps members serving through BVCA can say with 100% certainty that youth attending the Family & Youth Involvement Center are feeling connected to each other, caring adults, and the community!

Project Summary: Our project will include a video and live presentation.



"WHY AMERICORPS?"

VIDEO PRESENTATION

THEME: HOW SERVICE CHANGES THE WAY I SEE THE WORLD

AmeriCorps Program: Nebraska Economic Opportunity Corps AmeriCorps

Participants: Kidecia King, Jennifer Dickey, NEOC AmeriCorps members

Service Description: NEOC is an AmeriCorps State program of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. Our mission is to improve the economic opportunities of at-risk youth, new Americans, and veterans through education and employment programs that empower individuals toward self-sufficiency.

Project Summary: We plan to create a video that highlights our NEOC members, our various sites, and service projects. Through our video, we want to convey why we chose to do AmeriCorps, what we have learned throughout our service, and how our service has impacted the way we see the world.



"RISE"

VISUAL ART/CANVASES

THEME: HOW SERVICE CHANGES THE WAY I SEE THE WORLD

AmeriCorps Program: RISE AmeriCorps, Hastings

Participant: Tegan Gormon

Service Description: Nebraska State Probation's, Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment (RISE) program was developed for rural areas of Nebraska in need of supportive services. The goal of the RISE program is to reduce recidivism through improving education and employment opportunities for adult and juvenile probationers.

Service Highlight: My biggest highlight is when the individual comes to my office with the money they have saved. Sometimes, it's their biggest accomplishment and I get to be a part of it.

Project Summary: I will have 2 canvases. They will read "What defines us is how well we RISE after falling" and "RISE above the storm and you will see the sunshine". I believe that I meet some people at their lowest and one of the most rewarding aspects of my position is to inspire individuals to be better.



“YES WE CAN!”

VIDEO PRESENTATION

THEME: HOW SERVICE CHANGES THE WAY I SEE THE WORLD

AmeriCorps Program: BVCA AmeriCorps, Fairbury

Participant: Katie Durfee

Service Description: BVCA AmeriCorps members help build the capacity of Blue Valley Community Action Partnership to serve families and children in need.

Service Highlight: In four terms of AmeriCorps in rural southeast Nebraska, I have contributed to change. Change in myself, the youth I've worked with, the teams I've served with, and the agency I've served though. There have been significant accomplishments and significant challenges.

Project Summary: My presentation shares reflections of my AmeriCorps journey and the change in my community that I helped create. “Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

— Barack Obama

“WITH WATER AND SUNSHINE!”

VISUAL ART/FLOWERS

THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER

AmeriCorps Program: MCC*Corps AmeriCorps, Omaha

Participants: Cyndi Turner, MCC AmeriCorps members

Service Highlight: I am Cyndi Turner. I was born in Los Angeles, CA. I currently live in Omaha, NE and serve at Metropolitan Community College. I have accomplished many things as an AmeriCorps member; I have gained confidence as an individual, I have found respect for things I've never respected before, I have given courage through my positivity, I have earned trust, and I have met some really neat people.

Project Summary: My project includes plants. We all started as a seed and with water and sunshine the plant bloomed into a beautiful flower. Just as my service has done to those around me. I truly believe my service has given many people the courage and opportunity to grow into beautiful people.



“GROWING HEALTHY RURAL MINDS”

VISUAL ART/CANVAS DISPLAY

THEME: HOW SERVICE CHANGES THE WAY I SEE THE WORLD

AmeriCorps Program: Healthy Rural Communities AmeriCorps (Volunteers of America)

Participant: Sandra Renner

Service Highlight: The best highlight of my service is the focus on the small rural communities, their unique challenges and successes, and coming on with Nebraska Farm to School where fruits are starting to be seen from the groundwork laid.

Project Summary: My piece suggests the differing world views of rural students who are "fed" healthier ideas through Farm to School activities from their peers who are not. The inspiration for this piece is from the success stories we have come across in our work where Farm to School ends up becoming a matter of community pride and ownership.

“MAKING COLLEGE POSSIBLE: COLLEGE POSSIBLE OMAHA 2014-2015”

VIDEO PRESENTATION

THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER

AmeriCorps Program: College Possible Omaha AmeriCorps

Participants: Anne Bonanno, Paul Hess, Becky Sefcovic, Hilary Bond, Mandi Prichard, Seth Rueter, Jackie McHugh, Kylie McDermott

Service Description: College Possible makes college admission and success possible for low-income students through an intensive curriculum of coaching and support. Launched in 2011, College Possible Omaha serves more than 650 low-income high school and college age students through its college access and completion programs.

Project Summary: Our video will be a celebration of our students and the work that we do. It will include statistics as well as personal stories and student quotes.



“NEBRASKA EXTENSION & AMERICORPS”

VIDEO PRESENTATION

THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER

AmeriCorps Program: UNL Extension AmeriCorps

Participants: Ami Sedani, Hanna Dittmar, Elizabeth Kneifl, Rachel Cohen, Laura Feldhacker, Jonnisha McCleod

Service Description: Nebraska Extension works together with AmeriCorps to reach a variety of youth throughout Nebraska. Our volunteers use various activities to teach children the importance of healthy eating. We strive to have a positive impact on the eating choices that Nebraska's youths make.

Service Highlight: Together we work in Douglas County, Sarpy County, Lancaster County and Dodge County with youth of all ages. One of the best highlights

from our service is when children approach us to tell us how glad they are to see us again and how much they enjoy your lessons and snacks.

Project Summary: This is a video project highlighting UNL Extension AmeriCorps and the work that they do.



Service Description: MCC*Corps is an education award only AmeriCorps program that is a collaboration between Metropolitan Community College's (MCC) service-learning office, financial aid, faculty members, community partners and students. The program's members address needs in the Education and Economic Opportunity Focus Areas.

Service Highlight: My name is Kareen Nellist, and I am from Omaha NE, serving at the Sienna Francis house. As an AmeriCorps member I have had many opportunities to lead workshops for guests, programmers, and apartment residents. The highlight of my service was spending Christmas Eve with the program women doing hair, nails, and food so they could spend time with their families.

“GIVING TREE”

VISUAL ART

THEME: HOW VOLUNTEERS CREATED SOMETHING SPECIAL

AmeriCorps Program: MCC*Corps AmeriCorps, Omaha

Participants: Kareen Nellist, Ruthie Leflore



“TRUE SCALE HOUSE FRAMING”

VISUAL ART/MODEL

THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER

AmeriCorps Program: YouthBuild Omaha AmeriCorps

Participants: Norman Barnes and YouthBuild Omaha team members

Service Description: YouthBuild Omaha AmeriCorps members simultaneously serve their communities while building their own future. The program enrolls young adults, ages 16-24, who are looking to make a life change and guides them in obtaining their GED, gaining construction skills and becoming self-sufficient engaged citizens. Members' time is split between the GED classroom and on the construction worksite.

Project Summary: The project teaches proper construction techniques according to the IBC. The project is a 1/16 scale model of a two bedroom house. Participants learned to read an architect scale that was used throughout the project to convert actual dimensions to 1/16 scale dimensions. Participants also learned about blueprint reading, teamwork, patience, and how this scale project can be transferred to an actual construction site.

“PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS”

VISUAL ART/POSTER

THEME: HOW SERVICE CHANGES THE WAY I SEE THE WORLD

AmeriCorps Program: BVCA AmeriCorps (VISTA)

Participant: Sierra Carrington

Service Description: I moved to Fairbury, NE from Clinton, Iowa to serve a year as a VISTA with Blue Valley Community Action Partnership in November 2014. My service year has been an adventure so far filled with lots of "firsts" and hopefully some "lasts". This is the first time I've had my own apartment, the first time I've been away from my family for this long, and hopefully the last time I will ever be under a mandatory evacuation from my home due to flooding. I have grown so much as a person in the last 6 months; I don't think any other life experience could have provided the same opportunity.

Project Summary: Prior to my service as an AmeriCorps VISTA member, I believed that the way to happiness was far more than what it actually is.





“MMI AMERICORPS EXPERIENCES”

VIDEO PRESENTATION

THEME: HOW OUR SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER

AmeriCorps Program: MMI AmeriCorps, Omaha

Participants: Paige McArdle, Melissa King, Jim Schmidt, Tim Sabutis

Service Description: MMI AmeriCorps involves 28 AmeriCorps members in training and assisting with providing behavioral health services. These members focus on serving individuals who are underprivileged & underserved, and military families who do not generally have access to behavioral health services.

Project Summary: In this video, four of our members describe their experiences providing behavioral health services to under-served populations.

“YWCA AMERICORPS REFLECTIONS”

VISUAL ART

THEME: HOW VOLUNTEERS CREATED SOMETHING SPECIAL

AmeriCorps Program: YWCA Adams County AmeriCorps, Hastings

Participants: Laura Seger, AmeriCorps members

Service Description: YWCA Adams County AmeriCorps deploys AmeriCorps members to address community-identified needs in Adams, Nuckolls, Clay, Kearney and Webster counties. At the YWCA and throughout these counties, the AmeriCorps members serve in several capacities.

Service Highlight: I serve at the YWCA Adams County AmeriCorps as the Career Closet Coordinator. We provide interview outfits to women who are looking for work, there is no cost at all. It brightens my day to put a smile on their face, otherwise they could not afford to purchase them. I have, after contacting them, and doing a survey found that many have found employment, and may come back for work clothes.

Project Summary: Visual art project that will reflect our members journal stories, service, and thoughts.



“FACES OF IMPACT”

VIDEO PRESENTATION

THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER

AmeriCorps Program: Rural Corps of South Central Nebraska, Kearney

Participant: Dawn Rios

Service Description: Rural Corps of South Central Nebraska AmeriCorps members assist students in Pre-K through High School levels to achieve academic success and/or improvement. Nineteen AmeriCorps members will learn the importance of serving by helping to meet a community need. AmeriCorps members serve in Kearney Public School classrooms and Kearney Community Learning Center Before and After school programs.

Service Highlight: I am a 3rd year member and education major with UNK. I serve in a variety of places such as Bright Futures Preschool, as well as Northeast Elementary and Horizon Middle School. I have watched many students grow and develop and I can't express the joy that I have that I get to be a part of this on a daily basis. The best highlight that I have with my service is the impact that I have had on those around me, not just those who I serve directly but those around me who see the difference that I have made with my service.

Project Summary: I hope to show the faces of those we impact on a daily basis with this video project.

“BRIDGES”

VISUAL ART

THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER

AmeriCorps Program: PROH AmeriCorps, Lincoln

Participants: Cheryl Moncure, PROH AmeriCorps members

Service Description: *Providing Resources Opportunity & Hope.* Through the Center for People in Need and its partner Voices of Hope, AmeriCorps members serve low-income residents in Lancaster County via programs that fight poverty. AmeriCorps members distribute food and household necessities, provide job and computer training, and provide financial assistance.

Service Highlight: I am an ESL teacher and I teach three sections at the Center. I feel that teaching and helping people learn daily, as well as watching them grow is the highlight of my service.

Project Summary: We want to share the progression on how our services help people.

