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ServeNebraska Celebrates AmeriCorps Week

Lincoln, Neb. – ServeNebraska invites all Nebraskans to participate in AmeriCorps Week, March 17-23, by helping to thank AmeriCorps members, alumni and volunteers for the valuable contributions they have made in service to Nebraska communities. The weeklong celebration also honors the contributions and support of thousands of local organizations that make AmeriCorps programs possible.

AmeriCorps was created 30 years ago following the adoption of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. Since then, thousands of Nebraskans have served with AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs to meet critical community needs in areas such as mentorship, environmental stewardship and food insecurity.

"It's amazing to see AmeriCorps unite people under a shared mission of getting things done," said Cathleen Plager, executive director of ServeNebraska. "AmeriCorps truly benefits the whole state. Not only are needs met in the communities where these members serve, but AmeriCorps members gain skills and professional experience, local agencies get assistance building capacity and funds are invested in areas where they're needed most."

AmeriCorps members have made significant impacts in Nebraska since its inception in 1994. During the 2022-2023 program year, the College Possible AmeriCorps program assisted 242 high school students in preparing for college and over 80% successfully enrolled following their graduation. The Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln AmeriCorps program provided more than 1,600 elementary students from Title I schools with after-school instruction in nutrition and physical activity, and 746 of those students demonstrated increased knowledge about how to make healthier choices.

To join the celebration, follow AmeriCorps and ServeNebraska on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>. To join the conversation, share pictures and stories on Twitter, using #AmeriCorpsWeek.

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ServeNebraska is governed by a 15-member, bipartisan board appointed by the Nebraska governor. Its mission mobilizes Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through collaboration, volunteering and national service. ServeNebraska oversees AmeriCorps programming, hosts the state's most prestigious volunteer awards – the Governor's Step Forward Awards, and provides training and technical assistance. To learn more, visit www.serve.nebraska.gov.

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, 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 places more than 200,000 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**.