



servemontana symposium 2015
BUILDING COMMUNITIES UNDER BIG SKIES

Helena, Montana

March 11th - 13th

Carroll College

servemontana
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE



Thursday, March 12		
8:00am	Registration	Campus Center
9:00am	Opening Plenary: <i>Shannon Stober, MCC</i>	Campus Center
9:50am	<i>Break</i>	
10:00am	Urban vs. Rural	
	Everybody's Gotta Eat! Connecting Kids to Real Food in Rural and Urban Montana	Campus Center
	Billings: What's their Deal?!	O'Connell 101
	Increasing Access to Justice in Rural Areas	O'Connell 102
	College Access and Success: Seize the Opportunity	O'Connell 106
	Fight Childhood Hunger Week: a Statewide Movement	O'Connell 107
11:00am	<i>Break</i>	
11:10am	Partnerships under a Big Sky	
	Building an Inclusive Work Environment	Campus Center
	Budgeting 101: Surviving on an AmeriCorps Budget	O'Connell 101
	Cultivating School Community Service Partnerships	O'Connell 102
	Local Government Project Coordination and Development	O'Connell 106
	Building Communities through Business	O'Connell 107
12:10pm	Lunch	Campus Center
1:10pm	Connecting Diverse Populations	
	Building an Inclusive Work Environment	Campus Center
	Disability Awareness	O'Connell 101
	Better Together – National Service Programs Collaborating for Success	O'Connell 102
	Tribal Relations in Montana	O'Connell 106
	Veterans Affairs in Montana	O'Connell 107

Thursday, March 12 Cont.		
2:10pm	Break	
	The Great Outdoors	
2:20pm	Mitigating Climate Change in Montana	Campus Center
	Watersheds and Communities	O'Connell 101
	Leadership Development in the Outdoors	O'Connell 102
	Classrooms without Walls: Making School Curriculum Come to Life in Montana State Parks	O'Connell 106
	The Great Outdoors...It's Role and Importance	O'Connell 107
3:20pm	Break	
3:30pm	Community Solutions Summit	Campus Center
5:00pm	Dinner/AmeriCorps VISTA 50th Anniversary Celebration	Campus Center
6:00pm	Keynote: <i>Governor Steve Bullock & Wendy Spencer, CEO of CNCS</i>	Campus Center

Friday, March 13		
9:00am	Morning Plenary: <i>Lt. Governor Angela McLean</i>	Campus Center
9:30am	Break	
10:00am	Whole Community Disaster Simulation	Campus Center
12:30pm	Closing	Campus Center
12:30pm	Lunch	Campus Center
1:00pm	Departure	

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

March 12, 2015

Greetings and welcome to the sixth annual ServeMontana Symposium!

This year we will explore community-based solutions to Montana-specific issues by *Building Communities under Big Skies*. During keynote speaker presentations, breakout sessions, and group activities, we hope you will embrace new partnership opportunities and will deepen understanding for some of the complexities that surround our remarkable state. As we celebrate the AmeriCorps VISTA 50th Anniversary, join us in a discussion on solutions to poverty and help us discover ways to improve economic opportunities for future generations. Most importantly, use this event to meet new friends and visit with old, to reflect on our collective commitment to service and your impact on those around you, and to make short- and-long term goals as you embark on the journey of service in Montana.

This event would not be possible without our knowledgeable speakers, generous sponsors, and remarkable staff. We thank them for giving their time and resources to make this Symposium a success. Most importantly, we thank you for Serving Montana.

In Service,

Karin Olsen Billings
Commission Chair

Dan Ritter
Executive Director

The Governor's Office of Community Service and the Governor-appointed Montana Commission on Community Service were created in 1993 to promote and expand national service and volunteering in Montana.

Montana Commission on Community Service

Karin Olsen Billings, Chair, *Helena*
Adam Vauthier, Vice Chair, *Anaconda*
Maj. Lori Chamberlin, *Helena*
Wendy Nicolai, *Helena*
Heather Margolis, *Helena*
Doug Mitchell, *Helena*
Robert Nystuen, *Kalispell*
Danette Rector, *Missoula*

Julie Seedhouse, *Billings*
Jim Larson, *Billings*
Charles Wetherington, *Billings*
Erica Dunn, *Bozeman*
Chantel Scheiffer, *Bozeman*
Kevin Myhre, *Lewistown*
Sandra Boham, *Polson*
Jackie Girard, Ex-Officio, *Helena*

Governor's Office of Community Service Staff

Dan Ritter, Executive Director
Sunni Hitchcock, Finance Manager
Marissa Perry, Outreach Coordinator

Sarah Sadowski, Grants Manager
Kris MacIntyre, Program Assistant
Betsy Miller, Grants Coordinator

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

Wendy Spencer, *CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)*



On April 9, 2012, the U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Wendy Spencer to serve as CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

CNCS is a federal agency that administers AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, among other programs that engage more than five million Americans in service and volunteering to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement.

Under her leadership, CNCS has launched new partnerships, including FEMA Corps, School Turnaround AmeriCorps, STEM AmeriCorps, VetSuccess AmeriCorps, justice AmeriCorps, and Financial Opportunity Corps; increased the agency's focus on veterans and military families; and overseen the national response to a number of severe disasters.

Her efforts to engage elected officials include creating the annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service where 1760 Mayors express their appreciation for Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and volunteerism in general.

Spencer's management career spans 32 years and includes leadership roles in government, non-profit, and private sectors. She has served in both Democratic and Republican administrations. Prior to coming to Washington, D.C., she served as the CEO of the Florida Governor's Commission on Volunteerism where she connected National Service and volunteer strategies to meet state prioritized needs, as well as, coordinated volunteer efforts in response to disasters, including eight record-breaking storms in 2004-2005. She also served as the Director of the Florida Park Service, where she oversaw natural resource and recreational management for 158 state parks spanning 600,000 acres.

Other organizations Spencer has served professional roles in include United Way, Chamber of Commerce, banking, insurance, industry and legislative. Among other honors, Spencer has received the prestigious Governor's Award from Gov. Jeb Bush for her disaster work.

To learn about new initiatives and national service opportunities, see www.nationalservice.gov or follow @WendyCNCS on Twitter.

Governor Steve Bullock



Steve Bullock, Montana's former attorney general, was elected Montana's 24th governor on November 6, 2012. Bullock, 48, has made better jobs, better education and a more effective government his top priorities. Bullock was born in Missoula and raised in Helena. He attended public schools in Helena and graduated from Helena High School in 1984. He received his undergraduate degree from Claremont McKenna College and his law degree with honors from Columbia University Law School in New York. Bullock and his wife Lisa have three children: Caroline, Alexandria and Cameron.

Lt. Governor Angela McLean



Angela McLean, a Twin Bridges High School graduate, became Montana's 31st Lieutenant Governor in February, 2014 when she was appointed by Governor Steve Bullock. McLean, an educator and classroom teacher, taught American History and Government at Anaconda High School and served as an adjunct professor at Montana Tech in Butte prior to being tapped Lieutenant Governor. She also served as the Chair of the Montana Board of Regents prior to being appointed and had previously served on the Montana Board of Public Education. She and her husband Mike are the parents of Colin, an eighth grader, and Ellen, who's in fourth grade. She enjoys spending time with her family, as well as skiing, bicycling, hiking and camping.

Shannon Stober, Montana Conservation Corps



Shannon Stober has spent the past 13 years working within Montana's National Service community. She was a two-term Prevention Resource Center AmeriCorps *VISTA and has worked as a staff member with the Governor's Office of Community Service, the Montana Campus Compact, and the Montana Conservation Corps. Shannon has delivered leadership development workshops to thousands of Montana students, service members, and professionals using an energetic and engaging approach honed through her service experiences. Her audiences include all of Montana's AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps *VISTA programs, the Montana Campus Compact, the Office for Public Instruction's Career and Technical Service Organizations, Montana State University's Campus Corps and Spring Breaks-Away teams, the University of Montana's Griz-Lead and Global Leadership programs, Fort Lewis College's STEM Office, the Missoula Neighborhood Council, the Montana Center for International Visitors, and more. She truly believes that National Service is a cause and is continually grateful to be a member of the National Service community in Montana.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS SUMMIT



Since 1965, over 190,000 individuals have served as AmeriCorps VISTA members in 4,000 communities and organizations throughout the United States. AmeriCorps VISTA has proven to be a cost-effective solution to America's toughest problems. VISTA members build capacity within and strengthen the impact of our nation's nonprofits, and have a long history of establishing and supporting programs that address poverty in America. Today, current and former AmeriCorps service members are joining in Helena, Montana to discuss how service can be a solution to some of the most pressing poverty-related issues in the state. Through the Community Solutions Summit, members will be afforded the opportunity to network, think critically about poverty, expand national service efforts, and reflect on 50 years of VISTA service.

Summit Keynote Speech

Mike Halligan, Executive Director of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, Director of Government and Corporate Relations for Washington Corporations



Mike Halligan has been the Executive Director of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation and the Director of Government and Corporate Relations for Washington Corporations since November, 2002. Mike grew up in Billings, Montana. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam as an infantry combat platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division. In addition to serving in the Montana State Senate from 1980 to 2001, Mike operated a private law practice and worked as an attorney for Missoula County and the Montana Department of Justice, Child Protection Unit.

As Executive Director, Mike manages the Foundation's day-to-day operations, giving special emphasis to significant programs focused on undergraduate and graduate scholarships, early childhood development, after school enrichment, and those with special needs. Mike also represents the Foundation on various regional and national philanthropic boards.

3:30 – 3:40 Welcome and Introduction

3:40 – 4:15 Keynote Speech

4:15 – 4:55 Interactive Discussion & Reflection

4:55 – 5:00 Closing

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

WHOLE COMMUNITY DISASTER SIMULATION

An interactive, two-hour and thirty-minute simulation that is designed as a non-technical simulation for non-emergency responders



- * Do you know what to do when disaster strikes?
- * What skills do you have that may be useful during an emergency situation?
- * What community organizations and agencies are active during disasters here in Montana?
- * What can you do to prepare yourself and your neighbors for emergencies and disasters of all types?

The purpose of this simulation is to give you a *small* taste of the roles that community members may fill following a major disaster. All disasters start and end locally. You will find that the whole community is involved and affected. It is important that *everyone* is prepared and knows what to do in the event of a disaster.

30 min – Briefing period, get into your role

60 min – Active simulation

60 min – Review and debrief



Realize the importance of being personally prepared



Understand the multiple organizations involved in disaster response and how you can become involved



Learn about the process of recovering from a disaster

readymontana

EVERYBODY'S GOTTA EAT! CONNECTING KIDS TO REAL FOOD IN RURAL AND URBAN MONTANA

Presenters: Demetrius Fassus, Andi Giddings, Amy Harvey, Emma Fernandez / FoodCorps

Whether you live in Butte (a post industrial urban mining town) or in Red Lodge (a small, rural mountain community near the Bear Tooths), everyone's gotta eat, right? Four FoodCorps service members will share their experiences living and working in vastly different urban and rural communities from across the state. They'll map out the challenges, opportunities, and idiosyncrasies of connecting kids to healthy, local foods from very different community food systems.

BILLINGS: WHAT'S THEIR DEAL?!

Presenter: Gina Simonetti / Billings Metro VISTA Project

Join the Billings Metro VISTA Project for a discussion about homelessness in Billings and what the dynamics are of working with the City of Billings in order to accomplish our goals and strengthen economic opportunities for those living in the largest city in Montana.

INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN RURAL AREAS

Presenters: Alison Paul, Casey Stephenson, Nolan Harris / Justice for Montanans

Justice for Montanans AmeriCorps members across the state serve as navigators of the justice system and help over 17,000 low income individuals find the legal information and resources they need to solve their legal problems each year. Montanans living in rural areas often have limited access to legal resources, but the Justice for Montanans program breaks down these barriers with creative outreach strategies and the use of technology.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS: SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

Presenters: Josh Vanek, Jon Stephani, Gerri Stiffarm / Montana Campus Compact

The Montana Campus Compact's network office staff will discuss the state of the college access and success movement in both rural and urban Montana, exploring best practices, exemplary projects and replicable work that MTCC affiliate organizations have led.

FIGHT CHILDHOOD HUNGER WEEK 2015: A STATEWIDE MOVEMENT THAT YOU CAN BE A PART OF

Presenters: Lily Herd, Sandor Axelrod, Abigail Lichliter, Robin Eck, Anika Ahmad-Post / No Kid Hungry AmeriCorps

Did you know that more than 1 in 5 children in Montana is currently struggling with hunger? This session will tell you how YOU can be a part of this movement during Fight Childhood Hunger Week 2015, a statewide series of youth-led service projects and outreach events happening all over the state for GYSD, April 13-19, that will call attention to the problem of hunger in our communities and raise money/supplies for local food aid programs.

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

Presenters: Kim Spurzem, Ben Mincks / NCBI Missoula

This experiential session will help participants become leaders in building programs where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. Participants will gain practical tools to end individual and institutional prejudice by deepening self-awareness, increasing understanding of difference, and developing ally skills. NCBI trainers set a hopeful and positive tone that builds community among participants, showcasing the same principles needed to build inclusive programs within participants' own organizations.

BUDGETING 101: SURVIVING ON AN AMERICORPS BUDGET

Presenter: Summer Red / Billings Metro VISTA Project

Take control of your finances by learning the key components of successful budgeting, including the four steps of budgeting, long-term financial goals, tracking your spending, and how to plug money leaks. This highly interactive session will equip you for a lifetime of successful money management!

CULTIVATING SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS

Presenter: Heather Margolis / ServiceNation Montana, Commission on Community Service

Join us to "harness the creativity, energy and unique perspective of young people to grow stronger communities, foster student achievement, and build workplace readiness skills" (-YSA) We will explore strategies for partnering with schools to increase youth's confidence and educational aspirations, and cultivating service champions in the classrooms and within the administration. We will examine the ideas behind SPARK, Youth Voice and ASAP model to engage youth and their teachers to impact the communities they serve.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Presenter: Kevin Myhre / City Manager of Lewistown, Commission on Community Service

The presentation will focus on aspects of coordinating projects with local governments and volunteer groups in communities. Resources within local government for outdoor recreation and community aesthetics are limited and projects are often forwarded locally by volunteers groups and community organizations. The services of AmeriCorps programs can provide an invaluable conduit to get improvements on the ground over a very short period of time and in a very efficient manner.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH BUSINESS

Presenter: Robert Nystuen / Glacier Bank Market President, Commission on Community Service

The most effective way for you to build support for your program is to ask. This session will explore how to make the ask to local businesses large and small to support your efforts toward community building. Attendees will learn how to approach for-profit businesses to ask for support, and how to cultivate those relationships to build support for years to come.

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT **repeat session*

Presenters: Kim Spurzem, Ben Mincks / NCBI Missoula

This experiential session will help participants become leaders in building programs where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. Participants will gain practical tools to end individual and institutional prejudice by deepening self-awareness, increasing understanding of difference, and developing ally skills. NCBI trainers set a hopeful and positive tone that builds community among participants, showcasing the same principles needed to build inclusive programs within participants' own organizations.

DISABILITY AWARENESS

Presenter: Eric Kohring / Montana Independent Living Project (MILP)

This session will look at various disabilities with examples of typical barriers people with these disabilities face and look at ways they overcome these barriers and what other individuals can do to help eliminate these barriers. Devices may be available to allow people to experience some temporary level of disability.

BETTER TOGETHER—NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS COLLABORATING FOR SUCCESS

Presenter: Abby Zent / Prevention Resource Center VISTA Project

This session will discuss the importance of collaboration among National Service Programs by using successful examples from local programs. The tradition of neighbor helping neighbor will be highlighted through specific cases of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps Programs working together. Appropriate areas for collaboration and how to find other local National Service Programs will also be discussed.

TRIBAL RELATIONS IN MONTANA

Presenter: Jason Smith / Governor's Director of Indian Affairs

Involving Tribal Nations is critical to serving a variety of needs in Montana's populations. Find out how to build relationships and develop new partnerships. The Governor's Director of Indian Affairs will provide valuable information on best practices for starting and sustaining relationships and partnerships with Tribal Nations in Montana, as well as share his own personal experience serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA.

VETERANS AFFAIRS IN MONTANA

Presenter: Bruce Knutson / Veteran Liaison for Senator Jon Tester

Did you know that roughly 1 in every 10 people in Montana are veterans? How do we best serve those who served us? Learn about the current situation of veterans in Montana and resources available to assist them. Join Senator Tester's Veteran Liaison in a discussion on how to best understand, work with, and address the needs of veterans and their families.

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE IN MONTANA

Presenters: Gordon Bauer, Devin Rothman, Caroline Lauer, Bill Pederson / Energy Corps

The Energy Corps program strives to meet low-income Montanan's energy needs by promoting sustainable energy consumption through education, fostering community sustainability through outreach and helping to mitigate the effects of global climate change through hands on weatherization.

WATERSHEDS AND COMMUNITIES

Presenters: Bryan Wilson, Katherine Boyk, David Stout / Big Sky Watershed Corps

The Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) session will provide a brief introduction about the program. The need for Montana watershed health and protection will be identified and current efforts will be summarized. Attention will be centered on watershed education, outreach efforts and why they are critical, as well as the specific needs members meet in their respective communities. Strategies will include youth and adult curriculum, the watershed approach, watershed health and protection, restoration efforts and drought resiliency.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN THE OUTDOORS

Presenter: Greg Ross / Montana Conservation Corps

This session will explore the connection between successful leadership development and the contributing unknowns of a crew setting in the outdoors. We will discuss how the values of the effort don't come from external recognition, and session participants will explore how this relates to their own term of service.

CLASSROOM WITHOUT WALLS: MAKING SCHOOL CURRICULUM COME TO LIFE IN MONTANA STATE PARKS

Presenters: Jean Placko, Isabel Shinnick-Gordon, Hillary Holt, Kelly Byard / Montana State Parks AmeriCorps

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps (MSPA) promotes healthy, active, and environmentally aware communities by enhancing park land, enriching educational opportunities, building volunteer capacity and strengthening community outreach. In this session learn more about k-12 education issues in Montana and how MSPA members are working to provide hands-on experiential learning opportunities that compliment classroom lessons. Be prepared to test out a hands-on experience!

THE GREAT OUTDOORS...IT'S ROLE AND IMPORTANCE

Presenter: Sarah Sadowski / Governor's Office of Community Service

New to Montana and the outdoors? National Service in Montana provides members abundant opportunities to engage in the Great Outdoors, *Under the Big Sky*. Want to learn more about the Great Outdoors and what it means to you, to Montana and to the United States? In this interactive session we will work together to deepen our personal and collective understanding of the role and importance of the Great Outdoors movement. Bring your open mind and willingness to share perspectives so that we can learn together!

*Visit serve.mt.gov for a list of speaker bios and session handouts



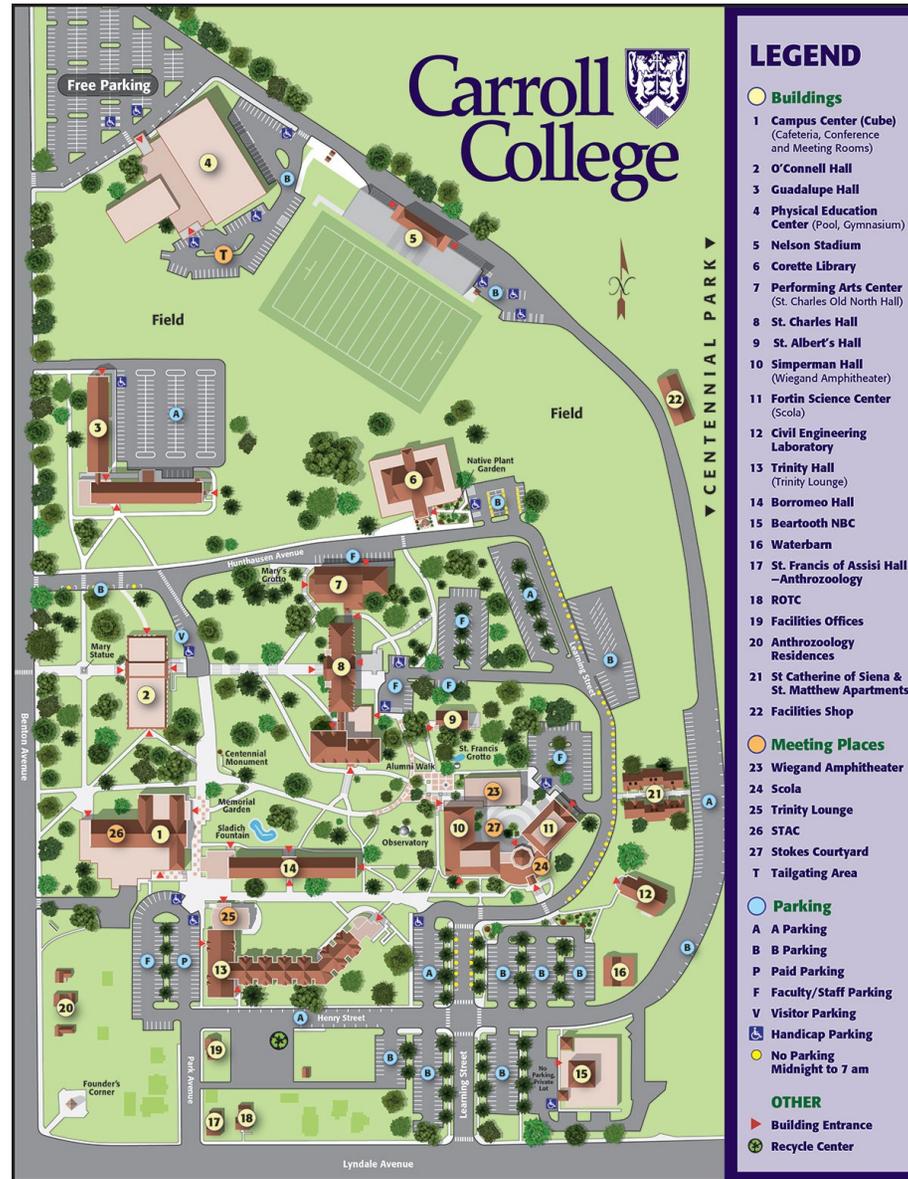
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**You may park in lots P, F, A, and B, as well as along Benton Avenue*

**Plenary sessions and keynotes will take place at the All Saint Hall in the Campus Center (1)*

**Lunches and dinner will be served in the STAC Dining Hall at the Campus Center (26)*

Thank you to the generous sponsors of the
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Denise Juneau, State Superintendent



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