Speaker Packet

OCS and Symposium
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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE
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The Governor's Office of Community Service and the Symposium

In 1993, the Montana Community Service Act (MCA 90-14-103 to 109) established the Office of Community Service and tasked the office with renewing the ethic of service, engaging all citizens in service to the state, calling upon young people to serve, building the service of young and old into existing frameworks, and establishing programs that benefit the state and its people.

The Governor's Office of Community Service is currently supported with $174,910 in State General Funds. The office leverages General Funds with federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This funding supports the administration of AmeriCorps State programs in Montana, emergency preparedness outreach, statewide training and technical assistance, and volunteer recognition events. The Governor's Office of Community Service also builds the capacity for citizens to engage in service by brokering opportunities and resources, and helping develop new partnerships.

Currently, the Governor's Office of Community Service is led by a Governor-appointed Executive Director and supported by the 15-member Governor-appointed Montana Commission on Community Service. Base staff includes executive director, finance manager, grants manager, and communications coordinator. Additional staff supported by grants includes grant coordinators. The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) has provided the office's fiscal and central support services since 1997.

Keep up-to-date on all Governor's Office of Community Service activities by visiting **serve.mt.gov.**

To promote and expand service and volunteering in Montana, the Governor's Office of Community Service has developed long-term, sustainable partnerships and initiatives. Additionally OCS hosts or participates in events and conferences to encourage public interest in volunteering.

Since 2010, the Governor's Office of Community Service has brought together streams of service for training, networking, and presentations at the annual ServeMontana Symposium. Hosting a multiple-day conference, the Office engages the service community in applicable and hands-on sessions and speakers, and highlights the impact of service in local communities.

This year, the Symposium will serve as a gathering of over 200 National Service participants with a focus on providing a toolkit of resources for successful service to Montana. National Service participants will include AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and Senior Corps programs.

Exploring the Theme

servemontana symposium 2014
THE POWER OF HUMAN ACTION

The theme of "the Power of Human Action" will explore the impact of National Service in Montana over the years, and inspire participants to succeed in their term of service and continue a lifelong commitment to service.

Speakers should emphasize the impact of individuals and groups on bringing about changes in Montana and solving issues in the community, particularly individuals that are willing to devote their time in service to others.

Some key focus areas may include:

- The passion for an issue and the courage tackle it.
- Working toward finding the best solutions to Montana's and the world's problems.
- The ability to inspire others to volunteer in the community.
- The encouragement to take action rather than remain silent.
- The willingness to take risks for the benefit of others.
- The impact of a dedicated group of individuals; strength in numbers.

Speakers can provide stories, personal experience, or historical relevance to help capture the theme.

Keynote Speaker: *Professor Paul Lauren*

Paul Gordon Lauren is the first person to be named as a Regents Professor at The University of Montana. He is an internationally-recognized teacher and scholar on diplomacy, international relations, and human rights. He has published many articles, chapters, and eleven books, all or portions of which have been translated into seven different languages, including the widely-read *Force and Statecraft*, the highly-acclaimed *The Evolution of International Human Rights: Visions Seen* nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and the award-winning *Power and Prejudice: The Politics and Diplomacy of Racial Discrimination*. Professor Lauren has received the Distinguished Scholar Award, Outstanding Advisor to Students Award, the Most Inspirational Teacher Award, the Robert Pantzer Award, and the Award for Distinguished Service to International Education at The University of Montana as well as the CASE Professor of the Year Award and the Governor's Humanities Award. He served as the founding director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center and as the Mansfield Professor of Ethics and Public Affairs. In addition, he has been a Senior Fulbright Scholar, a Senior Fulbright Specialist, a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, a Peace Fellow, a Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellow, and a Distinguished Lecturer for the U.S. Department of State. Professor Lauren has presented many lectures throughout the United States and around the world to a wide variety of audiences, including students and professors, the general public, activists, analysts, attorneys and judges, professional diplomats, legislators, and policy makers. He also has delivered invited addresses before the Smithsonian Institution, the Nobel Peace Institute, and the United Nations. Biography from www.umt.edu

Agenda and Overview of Breakout Sessions

Wednesday, March 12th	
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Service Project at various locations throughout Helena
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	20th Anniversary of AmeriCorps Dinner and Celebration

The Symposium will begin at the Montana Capitol Rotunda where Governor Bullock will address the members. Members will then dispatch to service projects at various locations throughout Helena including Habitat for Humanity, Montana Wild, and City Parks.

National Service participants will come together on Wednesday night for a celebration of service and dinner at the Capitol Rotunda. The theme of the dinner will be 90's attire to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of AmeriCorps.

Thursday, March 13th	
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Keynote: *Montana Supreme Court Justice, Beth Baker*
10:15 AM - 11:00 AM	Community Needs Breakout Sessions
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Community Needs Breakout Sessions
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	Regional Networking Lunches
1:30 PM - 2:15 PM	Community Needs Breakout Sessions
2:45 PM - 5:00 PM	Disaster Preparation Simulation and Exercise
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Dinner
	Keynote UM Regents Professor Paul Lauren: *The Power of Human Action*

Community Needs Breakout Sessions:

These sessions will identify community needs and issues pertinent to Montana, and provide knowledge and resources to National Service participants on how to address these needs. Topics will range from developing leadership in youth and addressing childhood hunger, to caring for an ageing population and supporting veterans.

Disaster Preparation Simulation:

This hands-on exercise will provide National Service participants with a better understanding of how to appropriately respond to a disaster and effectively work with various partners and agencies in Montana when disaster strikes.

Friday, March 14th	
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Keynote: *MSU President, Waded Cruzado*
9:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Service Skill Building Breakout Sessions
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Service Skill Building Breakout Sessions
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Closing Plenary Shannon Stober: *Emotional Skills for Service*

Service Skill Building Breakout Sessions:

These sessions will focus on the deliverable, specific tools that will help AmeriCorps members build the skill sets needed for a successful service. Sessions will include a look at the cycle of systemic oppression in Montana and provide skills for communicating and engaging people to combat prejudicial misinformation. Sessions will also include a specific focus on fund development, how to effectively share information with the media and gather community support for projects, how public policy impacts AmeriCorps at the local, state, and federal level and the importance of civic engagement, and how to recruit and maintain volunteers.

Closing Plenary: *Emotional Skills for Service*, Shannon Stober

Serving in AmeriCorps provides an unparalleled opportunity for individual transformation, however many of the personal benefits gained through service can only be gleaned over the passing of time. It is the commitment to continual reflection, along the willingness to allow lessons to emerge as they present themselves, that will foster one's growth into the future. With proper intention and awareness we can ensure that we are maximizing our learning opportunities each day and making the most out of our experience. Through the use of personal antidotes and audience interaction Shannon will lead the group through a series of conversations to prepare members for the ups and downs of their terms and highlight the practices and habits that can turn the ordinary into extraordinary.

Overview of Programs Attending the Symposium

AmeriCorps State Programs

Over the past twenty years, Montana Conservation Corps has developed a versatile program that uses the power of service and the crew dynamic to mobilize a new generation of land stewards to protect Montana's iconic landscape. This environment, however, is at-risk from catastrophic wildfires, invasive weeds, trails in disrepair, natural disasters, and poorly winterized homes. MCC annually recruits 245 AmeriCorps members to improve trails, restore parks and public lands, weatherize homes, and mobilize an additional 1,250 volunteers. Young veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars also serve in AmeriCorps, helping to reduce risks of wildfires while gaining skills for forestry jobs and productive civilian lives. Learn more at **mtcorps.org.**

America's headwaters are at-risk in Montana. The Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) invests in community solutions to protect and restore healthy watersheds and public waterways. AmeriCorps members will lend innovation and skill within watershed organizations to improve at-risk ecosystems at the very headwaters of our nation's greatest rivers, and mobilize volunteers to restore America's Great Outdoors.

FoodCorps is a nationwide team of leaders that connects kids to real food and helps them grow up healthy. FoodCorps places 10 leaders in limited-resource communities in Montana for a year of public service where they conduct hands-on food education, build and tend school gardens, and facilitate getting high-quality local food into public school cafeterias. Learn more at **FoodCorps.org**.

Justice for Montanans AmeriCorps members work to empower low to moderate income Montanans to advocate for their legal rights, increasing access to justice for Montana's poor. Established by the Montana Legal Services Association, in partnership with the Self-Help Program of the Montana Supreme Court Office of the Court Administrator and the Montana Attorney General Office of Consumer Protection & Victim Services, the project places 13 members throughout Montana that help provide and expand intake, legal information and referral services for Montana's low income residents seeking legal assistance. Learn more at **justiceformontanans.org**.

The Montana State Parks AmeriCorps program promotes healthy, active and environmentally aware communities by increasing volunteerism, enhancing educational opportunities, and improving community outreach in Montana State Parks. AmeriCorps members serving in this program will develop a commitment to stewardship of natural and cultural resources. Learn more at state-parks.mt.gov/americorps/

AmeriCorps VISTA Programs

The Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) AmeriCorps VISTA program, referred to as MTCC VISTA, is a statewide National Service program that connects campus resources with critical community needs. MTCC AmeriCorps VISTAs serve from Montana college campuses and in partnership with community-based organizations, nonprofits, schools, and faith-based organizations. MTCC VISTAs work closely with community groups to address local poverty problems involving housing, school performance, and hunger. Learn more at **mtcompact.org.**

The Prevention Resource Center VISTA Project connects Montana communities, the Interagency Coordinating Council for State Prevention Programs, and the Americorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) throughout the state of Montana. Hosted by the Department of Public Health and Human Services, the Prevention Resource Center strives to keep Montana children, communities and families strong and resilient against risks such as unintended and unhealthy pregnancies, child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, crime and violence, and high school drop-outs. The VISTA Project works proactively in order to create and sustain conditions that reduce risk, as well as promote the safety, personal responsibility and well-being of all. Learn more at **prevention.mt.gov.**

AmeriCorps VISTA builds permanent infrastructure and capacity in non-profit organizations and communities. The Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) VISTA project is no exception. MLSA VISTA members serve for a year to help bring individuals and communities out of the cycle of poverty. Since the establishment of Volunteers In Service To America in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, VISTA members have actively served in low-income communities by mobilizing people, businesses, non-profits and organizations with the goal of creating sustainable change in communities. Learn more at **mlsavista.org.**

AmeriCorps National Programs

The Energy Corps AmeriCorps project is an initiative of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) in cooperation with The Corporation for National and Community Service that was created to address unmet community energy needs by promoting sustainable energy consumption and education, fostering community sustainability and helping to mitigate the effects of global climate change. Learn more at **energycorps.org.**

Senior Corps

The Foster Grandparent Program connects volunteers age 55 and over with children and young people with exceptional needs. Volunteers mentor, support, and help some of the most vulnerable children in the United States.

RSVP connects volunteers age 55 and over with service opportunities in their communities that match their skills and availability. From building houses to immunizing children, from enhancing the capacity of non-profit organizations to improving and protecting the environment, RSVP volunteers put their unique talents to work to make a difference.

The Senior Companion Program brings together volunteers age 55 and over with adults in their community who have difficulty with the simple tasks of day-to-day living. Companions help out on a personal level by assisting with shopping and light chores, interacting with doctors, or just making a friendly visit.

Days of Service

Members plan projects and recruit volunteers for two Days of Service annually:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service — National Service members honor Dr. King's legacy with annual 'Read for Peace' projects by reading MLK related books and stories to kindergarten through third-grade classrooms.

- September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance — National Service members and volunteers in Montana are team up to show their appreciation for the victims, survivors, and emergency responders of 9/11 through service projects and events.

The Governor's Office of Community Service
Contact Information

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Is your organization interested in sponsoring the Symposium?

Contact: Dan Ritter, 444-2573, danritter@mt.gov

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