



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ServeMontana Celebrates Serving Through Adversity at 12th Annual Symposium

HELENA, MT – AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) participants from across Montana met virtually for the 12th annual ServeMontana Symposium. Hosted by ServeMontana, the Governor’s Office of Community Service, the symposium brought together just over 350 members from across Montana for training, resources, and networking opportunities. To preserve the health of members and the Montanans they serve, the symposium was hosted online for the first time.

The symposium theme “AmeriCorps Service: Being the Best of Montana” emphasizes the impact that national service has in Montana state and on those who serve, especially as we grapple with the ripple effects of COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic, AmeriCorps programs throughout Montana pivoted their efforts to meet the rapidly changing needs of Montana’s communities.

“Service to people and places is both a personal experience and a collective effort. Uniting in service re-braids the tattered fabric of us, our communities, and our nation. I believe this now more than ever,” said Sarah R. Sadowski, Executive Director of ServeMontana and two term AmeriCorps VISTA Alumna.

In-service training presentations provided AmeriCorps members information about virtual events, tribal relations, suicide prevention, poverty in Montana, and more. Attendees also engaged with a panel of AmeriCorps alumni and learned more about becoming community contributors after service.

Keynote speakers included:

- Laura Nowlin, Musselshell Watershed Coalition – “Rural Montana: Perspectives on Agriculture, Conservation, and Community”
- Dr. Shane Doyle, Native Nexus – “Ancient Values for Modern Times”
- Shannon Stober, Verve Exchange – “The Art of Perseverance”

For more information about the ServeMontana Symposium, visit serve.mt.gov.

The Governor’s Office of Community Service expands and promotes national service and volunteerism in Montana and engages citizens in service. Visit serve.mt.gov.