

#### FRAUD CONVICT MAKES PARTIAL RESTITUTION TO CORPORATION

A former non-profit executive who was convicted in 2002 of defrauding the AmeriCorps program has made partial restitution to the Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation).

Ms. Ruby Buck, former president and chief executive officer of Mississippi Action for Community Education (MACE), made a restitution payment of \$16,751.57 on Dec. 2, 2003, the U.S. District Court of Mississippi announced. She was ordered in January 2002 to repay \$116,751.67 to the Corporation following her conviction on one count of misapplication of AmeriCorps funds and 14 counts of submitting fraudulent AmeriCorps participant documents to the Corporation.

Ms. Buck, who was charged and convicted following an investigation by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), was also sentenced to 41 months in Federal prison, followed by three years of supervised probation.

An investigation by the OIG found that Ms. Buck supplemented the salaries of MACE employees by falsely reporting them as AmeriCorps members. This allowed MACE employees, none of whom performed AmeriCorps service, to illicitly receive Corporation-funded AmeriCorps stipends and medical insurance coverage.