

Corporation for National and Community Service
Board of Directors

Resolution

WHEREAS, on September 21, 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act into law, creating AmeriCorps and merging the former Commission on National Service and the ACTION Agency into a newly-established Corporation for National and Community Service; and

WHEREAS, fifteen years ago, the Corporation, preparing to launch the new AmeriCorps program, adopted the administration of two longstanding, successful, and proven service programs, VISTA and Senior Corps, and building upon the strong foundation laid by these programs and the Points of Light Foundation, the Corporation has been able not only to develop the now formidable AmeriCorps program, but also to support and enhance the ongoing consistently meaningful work of those pre-existing programs; and

WHEREAS, fifteen years ago, the first Governor-appointed State Commission on community service were established to administer AmeriCorps funding at the state level, and over the last fifteen years a robust network has emerged of strong State Commissions that are today recognized as the leaders in their states on volunteering and service; and

WHEREAS, fifteen years ago the Corporation prepared to enroll the first class of 20,000 AmeriCorps members, and in the years since has witnessed interest in national service spread, support for national service programs grow, and the reach of AmeriCorps increase to 75,000 members each year, with more than 500,000 Americans now having served in AmeriCorps; and

WHEREAS, over the last fifteen years, the Corporation has undertaken groundbreaking research on service and volunteering, including studies showing the health benefits of volunteering, the growth in volunteering in America over the last 30 years, the relative levels of volunteering in cities and states across the United States, and a longitudinal study demonstrating that AmeriCorps is a pipeline to careers in public service and creates civic leaders who continue to serve in their communities long after AmeriCorps service; and

WHEREAS, during the last fifteen years Americans have faced historic national tragedies, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 which led President George W. Bush to call each American to perform 4,000 hours of community service, and in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, more than 105,000 national service participants have deployed to the Gulf to aid the hurricane-ravaged communities and to leverage more than 405,000 Americans willing to serve, resulting in nearly 5.5 million community service hours to date; and

WHEREAS, today the Corporation houses the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, manages the Federal Mentoring Council, and is the nation's largest grantmaker supporting volunteering and service, administering nine major national service programs as well as other special initiatives such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service and the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, and stands as the proud leader in the federal government on service and volunteering; and

WHEREAS, in the fifteen years since its creation, the Corporation and its partners have steadfastly pursued its purposes, among others, of meeting the unmet environmental, educational, human, and public safety needs of the United States, expanding and strengthening existing service programs,

encouraging all U.S. citizens to engage in national service, and renewing the nation's ethic of civic responsibility and spirit of community;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, with deep affection and great honor, recognizes the fifteen year anniversary of the creation of AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the Corporation for National and Community Service and the many accomplishments and great impact of its first fifteen years made possible by the Corporation's continued flexibility and entrepreneurial spirit built upon the successes of the pre-existing and thriving Senior Corps and VISTA programs.

Approved by voice vote without objection, September 16, 2008