

CAMPUS CORPS CONNECTIONS



A Montana Campus Corps publication

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Montana | Campus Compact

Participating Campuses:

- Blackfoot Community College
- Carroll College
- Dawson Community College
- Flathead Valley Community College
- Fort Belknap College
- Fort Peck Community College
- Miles Community College
- MSU-Billings
- MSU-Bozeman
- MSU-Great Falls College of Technology
- MSU-Northern
- Montana Tech
- Rocky Mountain College
- Salish Kootenai College
- UM-Helena College of Technology
- UM-Missoula
- UM-Western
- University of Great Falls

Our Mission:

Montana Campus Corps is an AmeriCorps program that engages college students in meeting community-identified needs.

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Montana Campus Corps is supported by the Montana Commission on Community Service and the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS).

Member Spotlight: Ellen Story & Callee Swandal

In their second Campus Corps term as co-coordinators for the America Reads*America Counts program at MSU in Bozeman, Callee and Ellen are seasoned professionals. Together, they're on a mission to provide tutors for school-aged children who need extra attention in order to increase their skills and achievement levels.

This unique, two-year partnership has allowed Callee and Ellen the opportunity to truly take ownership of the America Reads*America Counts program, and the results are evident. This year, they collaborated with over 40 teachers at eight schools in the Bozeman area to offer tutoring services to nearly 350 K-8th graders. The secret to their success? Teamwork and perseverance.

Callee and Ellen both agree that their second year as Campus Corps members has made all the difference, in terms of program develop-



ment and personal growth. The fruits of their labors can be seen in the life lessons that their service experiences have afforded them. "Over the last two years, I've grown a lot in my leadership, teamwork, and communication skills," says Ellen. "Working with Callee has been great and taught me how to have a partnership with someone else."

Hailing from Juneau, Alaska, Ellen is a graduating this year with a degree in Elementary and Special Education. Callee is a junior from Wilsall, MT, and is studying Secondary Education, with an emphasis in Social Studies and minors in History, Sociology, and Human Development.

Homes for Helena



Campus Corps member Alex Clark and a Helena volunteer

Prickly Pear Condominiums helping to build simple, decent and affordable housing for those in need.

The Collegiate Program began in 1989 and has grown into one of the largest year-round alternative break programs in the United States, giving students the chance to learn, grow and have fun while making a positive impact on the community.

Alan Thompson, Career Services Coordinator, and Alex Clark, a Campus Corps AmeriCorps member, were both instrumental in establishing the program at the U of M—Helena.

"I was very pleased with the efforts of the students from our college who participated in the Collegiate Challenge," said Thompson. "I hope to get the word out

and encourage our students to participate in future Habitat for Humanity projects." Students as well were pleased with their participation. "I had a fantastic time working at the Habitat for Humanity site," stated Patty Smith, 3rd year Business Administration student from UM—Helena. "I look forward to going back as soon as possible and to bring as many students with me as I can to volunteer."



Circle K volunteers Kaitlyn Tyhurst and Patty Smith

The Campus Corps Non-Stipended Program: Co-Curricular Service

As everyone involved in the MTCC network knows, Campus Corps is a name synonymous with getting things done in Montana. From Lakeside Reading Buddies to the Poplar Wellness center, Campus Corps members work to address our state's most pressing community needs. Campus Corps members recruit their fellow students to serve and help in the important work of connecting college campuses with communities. Campus Corps has taken on many initiatives over the years ranging from reading and academic tutoring and community partnerships. All of it comes back to college students taking leadership roles in their communities and working to serve the common good. It's not easy work, but each year Campus Corps members are responsible for collecting thousands of pounds of food, recruiting thousands of volunteers, mentoring and tutoring hundreds of youth and that's really just the tip of the service iceberg.



Logan Mannix introduced engineering applications into his physics class at Helena Capital High School. Students constructed bridges and competed to see which structure could hold the most weight.



Carroll College Campus Corps Member James Byrd in the nursing lab.



Carroll College student teacher Carrie Key.

So what's the story with the non-stipended part of all this? Launched in the summer of 2007, the non-stipended "side" of Campus Corps takes the approach that in Montana many college students are substantially involved in curricular (or course-related) community service and civic engagement through their studies. Campus Corps sets out to deepen this engagement through orienting and training those students, and uses the national service experience to help encourage students to pursue "common good" careers (such as in teaching, health promotion and nursing, health science and social work) that are becoming increasingly important and simultaneously difficult to recruit for.

Non-stipended Campus Corps members often receive course credit for their AmeriCorps service. In other words, their AmeriCorps service term may also be a clinical rotation with one of MSU-Bozeman's College of Nursing campuses, or it might be a Radiology Technician rotation with Miles Community College, or a college student tutoring program with UM-Western. The departments and campuses involved with Campus Corps span the state, involving more than 700 students, as of this writing! The Campus Corps Non-Stipended Program is many things to many people, but at its core it is direct service to Montana communities.

A substantial piece to Campus Corps non-stipended is the AmeriCorps Education Award, well over \$1,000,000 that will be in the pockets of Montana's students at the end of the 2007-2008 academic year. Education Awards are a small reward for service, but as educational costs continue to rise, these funds help students with the difficult job of funding their educations. Currently, there is a national movement to match the AmeriCorps Education Award, and members can voice their opinions by encouraging their campuses to put a premium on service by encouraging that they match the Education Award with local resources.



Campus Corps member Lisa Lorimer practiced biofeedback at a Nursing Holistic Health Lab Open House.

CAMPUS CORPS MEMBERS GATHER IN MISSOULA FOR ANNUAL SPRING SUMMIT EVENT

On Saturday, April 12, and Sunday, April 13, The Montana Campus Compact hosted *The Campus Corps Spring Summit* at the University of Montana campus in Missoula. The event brought together nearly fifty Campus Corps members from across the state, offering them a unique opportunity to learn from their peers about student civic engagement in Montana.

The training component of the Summit included peer-led training sessions, civic engagement focus groups, and panel discussions facilitated by Campus Corps members, MTCC VISTA members, UM faculty, and local non-profit representatives. Several participants gained hands-on experience presenting in a conference setting. Peer-led training sessions included:

Best Practices for Tutoring Programs
Ellen Story and Callee Swandal – MSU-Bozeman

Developing Quality Service Projects
Heather Hass, Jaimie Hedrick, and Crystine Miller – Carroll College

The Farm to School Project
Erin Foster West, Sarah Kester, Patrick Murphy and Kevin Moore – Farm to College VISTA program

Health, Wellness and the Medicine Wheel
Ruth Moore and Lyn Red Elk – Fort Peck Community College

Reintegrating Youthful Offenders
Nicole Miller and Jeff Barnes – Montana Tech



Campus Corps members Jaimie Hedrick and Crystine Miller share best practices in developing quality service projects at Carroll College



Nicole Miller, Montana Tech Campus Corps



Shannon Beston & Lyn Red Elk—FPCC Campus Corps



MTCC VISTA Members Kevin Moore & Sarah Kester explain the Farm to College program

Summit attendees also participated in local service projects on Saturday afternoon, benefiting the J's House assisted living center and community members associated with Missoula Aging Services and Meals-on-Wheels.



Montana Tech Campus Corps Member Mary Lawrence and Team Leader Heather Corcoran tackled yard work with a smile.



Montana Tech Campus Corps member, Robert Carver, puts a fresh coat of paint on the J's House

Congratulations 2007-2008 Campus Corps Members



The event concluded on Sunday with a member recognition ceremony, featuring a keynote address by Rosie Buzzas, Montana legislator, Director of the Flagship Program and Director of Prevention Services at Western Montana Addiction Services. During the Ceremony for Civic Engagement, several members and teams were formally recognized for their civic achievements throughout their one-year or two-year terms of service. The following awards were presented:

CAMPUS CORPS CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Ruth Moore, Fort Peck Community College

OUTSTANDING SERVICE PROJECT

Martin Luther King Day Diversity Fair, Salish Kootenai College

AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Heather Hass, Carroll College

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE LEARNING AWARD

Jeremy Worrell, The University of Montana

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE

Jaimie Hedrick, Carroll College

Thanks to all the people who helped to make this event a success! The Spring Summit met members' expectations as a fun, reflective, and future-focused training event, and we hope to build upon the success of this event in years to come. A special thanks to the following individuals, who offered their time and expertise as panel presenters at this year's Summit:

Rosie Buzzas, The Flagship Program

Rowan Conrad, UM Career Services

Susan Hay Cramer, United Way of Missoula County

Bobby Grillo, Montana Conservation Corps

Paul Haber, The University of Montana

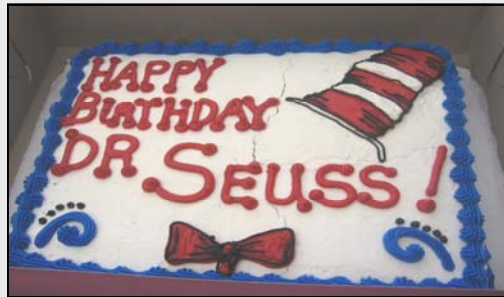
Ellie Hill, Poverello Center

Stephanie Knisley, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Helena

Otto Koester, The University of Montana

CAMPUS CORPS CELEBRATES DR. SEUSS!

Flathead Valley Community College & University of Montana



Campus Corps Team Leader Lauren Amato and Supervisor Colleen Kane teamed up with the Missoula Public Library and UM's Business School Honor Society to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Seuss.



Missoula children played "pin the green eggs on the ham", constructed "Cat in the Hat" hats and listened to classic stories by Dr. Seuss.



FVCC's annual Seussville allowed approximately three hundred third-graders from around the Flathead Valley to experience a day at college.



The third-graders rotated between classes including: math, art, music, reading, science and theatre. "It is a great way for the campus to reach out to the community and expose these kids to college life at a very young age" said Team Leader Shelly Watkins.



A FVCC volunteer donned his Seuss finest and entertained children as the Cat in the Hat.

Team Leader Shelly Watkins recruited over thirty volunteers for this year's Seussville event!

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY APRIL 2008



Missoula youth weeded the Homestead's rhubarb patch.



A Sentinel High School Junior turned soil in the garden.



Little Digger Day participants enjoyed the science of slime.

Salish Kootenai College

Twenty volunteers, including SKC Campus Corps members, N'kwusm staff and Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) members and staff joined forces to benefit the N'kwusm Salish Language Revitalization Institute in Arlee. Participants hauled lumber and debris from inside the former bowling alley that is under renovation to create additional classrooms, a library and a recording studio. "It was a hard day's work that resulted in dust-covered clothes and aching arms, but very rewarding for the volunteers, who were proud to do something meaningful for the community" said SKC Team Leader Sally McLellan.

University of Montana

Sentinel High School students, the UM Campus Corps team and MTCC VISTA members combined efforts to preserve a North Missoula historical landmark, the Moon-Randolph Homestead. Volunteers helped to revitalize the garden, clean up the apple orchards, construct a reservoir for rain water and whitewash the chicken coop. The survival of historic sites like the Moon-Randolph Homestead relies heavily on volunteer contributions.

MSU—Northern

Sue, the MSU-Northern Campus Corps Team Leader, celebrated her town by participating in Spring Havre Pride Day. Twenty-five volunteers from Northern Faculty to the Youth Diversion Program spent a sunny Saturday picking up litter around town. Carroll College Campus Corps members beautified the Helena Indian Alliance with landscaping and building maintenance.

MSU-Bozeman

Members from the Bozeman Campus Corps team joined the Gallatin Valley Earth Celebration that brought together numerous area interest groups. Team Leader Stephenie Matosich was instrumental in planning and coordinating three city-wide service projects for the green event.

Montana Tech

Campus Corps Members and the Technical Outreach Department hosted the annual Little Digger Day event. Over 875 elementary school students from Southwest Montana gathered on Tech's campus for activities including: sports, math, a slime science project, chemistry and history.



Clean-up participants outside of the N'kwusm Salish Language Revitalization Institute in Arlee.



UM Team Leader Lauren Amato geared up for the chicken coop.



SKC Campus Corps member Tracy Garcia and a YEP volunteer.

Creating a Better Montana, One Service Project at a Time



For Martin Luther King Jr Day, the MSU-Billings team entertained the residents of St. John's Retirement Home with a game of DEAL or NO DEAL.



Tracy Gracia, SKC Campus Corps member, recruited kids from Boys and Girls Club to clean up Highway 93 in the Mission Valley.



MSU-Northern Campus Corps member Jennie Huffman helped sort cans during Havre's annual *Everybody Loves a Firefighter*



Students from MSU—Billings participated in "Homeless for a Day" to raise awareness on campus.



Ellen Story joined the MSU—Bozeman team for the Special Olympics Valentine's Day dance.



A pupil of the Montana Tech Legion Oasis Tutoring program tapped into his creativity.



The *Careers in the Common Good Scholarships* support professional and personal member development opportunities in the amount of up to \$250 per member. These opportunities may include professional conferences, site specific trainings, personal development workshops and topic-specific forums addressing critical community needs. For most members, the CCG Scholarship supports their first professional or member development experience, further solidifying their commitment to serving community needs through their specific field or interest are and connecting them to other professionals in the field. *CCG Scholarships were started by Colorado Campus Compact's UCAN Serve Program, which continues to support the Campus Corps program by funding some member's scholarships.*

**Congratulations to recent recipients of the '07-'08
Careers in the Common Good Scholarship**

Award Recipients to date:

- Joshua Birchall
- Sarah Dargan
- Jayne Day
- Lacey Hanson
- Kori Johnson
- Natashia Kadrmas
- Deanna Miars



“WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR AMERICORPS WEEK?”

WHO?

AmeriCorps members, partnering organizations, and communities who have benefited from AmeriCorps service.

WHAT?

AmeriCorps Week is a recruitment and recognition event designed to bring more Americans into service, salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their powerful impact, and thank the community partners who make AmeriCorps possible. AmeriCorps Week provides an opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alums, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on the work done by members in communities across the country—and to motivate more Americans to join AmeriCorps or volunteer in their communities.

WHEN?

May 11-18, 2008

WHERE?

In any community where AmeriCorps members “get things done,” such as the Montana Campus Compact member institutions affiliated with Campus Corps.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN AMERICORPS WEEK?

Those with a special interest in AmeriCorps are encouraged to use their creativity to mark the week in any way they see fit. If you know an AmeriCorps alum or current member, make every effort to honor their commitment to national and community service. Stage an open house, service project, or volunteer fair that emphasizes the importance of civic engagement and meaningful service. Find out how you can serve as an AmeriCorps member for a day! Members and programs can “spread the word” about the power of service by submitting press releases, writing letters to the editor, or contacting legislators and local leaders about AmeriCorps Week. Contact your local college campus or service-learning office and find out what Campus Corps members are doing in your community!