



FEMA

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Press Release

FEMA'S CITIZEN CORPS PROGRAM FORMS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Washington, DC – In a signing ceremony today, the Deputy Administrator of the National Preparedness Directorate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Dennis Schrader, announced a newly-formed affiliation between Citizen Corps and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to help promote and improve community emergency preparedness, disaster response training for the public, and volunteer service. Co-signing the Statement of Affiliation with Deputy Administrator Schrader was Dr. George R. Boggs, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges. Citizen Corps and the AACC each view community safety and emergency preparedness as a top priority for their respective organizations and for the entire country. This partnership formalizes the commitment that community colleges play in homeland security. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, community colleges currently credential approximately 80 percent of first responders and 60 percent of health-care professionals.



From Left to Right: Brock D. Bierman, Director of FEMA Community Preparedness Division; George Boggs, President, American Association of Community Colleges, Dennis Schrader, Deputy Administrator, FEMA National Preparedness Directorate; James McKenney, Vice President of Economic Development, American Association of Community Colleges

“Community colleges play a vital role in training our first responders,” said Dennis Schrader, FEMA Deputy Administrator, National Preparedness Directorate. “Through this affiliation with Citizen Corps, we are delighted to work with the American Association of Community Colleges to expand their role in comprehensive community preparedness to include support for emergency planning, education and outreach, and training for the general public.”

AACC is the primary advocacy organization for the nation’s community colleges, representing almost 1,200 two-year institutions and more than 11 million students. “Community colleges are uniquely positioned to support community preparedness,” stated AACC President and CEO George Boggs, “We look forward to working with our member colleges to expand their leadership role in the community in this critical area.”

With over 2200 local Citizen Corps Councils nationwide, Citizen Corps is FEMA’s nationwide grass-roots effort to encourage community and government leaders to come together to involve community members and organizations in all-hazards emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery.

For more information about Citizen Corps, visit www.citizencorps.gov <<http://www.citizencorps.gov/>>. To learn more about the American Association of Community Colleges, please visit www.aacc.nche.edu <<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/>>

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

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