



CAMPUS CORPS CONNECTIONS

Volume 1, Issue 1

February 15, 2005

Campus Corps Quick Facts

Campus Corps Launches Inaugural Issue of "Campus Corps Connections"

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the "Campus Corps Connections", a newsletter designed to inform members, Campus-based Supervisors, and community-partnering supervisors about the great service happening quarterly through Montana Campus Corps. "Campus Corps Connections" is a newsletter designed and written by Campus Corps Team Leaders. **This quarter, Keri Jensen-Montana Tech Team Leader, Jessica Jones-FVCC Team Leader, and Marcy Spiker-MSU-Billings Team Leader** wrote and designed the newsletter. Please send appreciation their way for their hard work.

As always, we would love you feedback! If you have any ideas for quarterly columns or further information, please let Molly know.

Participating Campuses

- Carroll College
- Flathead Valley CC
- Fort Peck CC
- Miles CC
- MSU-Billings
- MSU-Bozeman
- MSU-Northern
- Montana Tech
- Salish Kootenai College
- University of Great Falls
- UM-Helena
- UM-Missoula
- UM-Western

Objectives

- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Volunteer Generation
- Member Development

Current Members:

- 9 Full-time Team Leaders
- 46 Half-time 2 year members

Remembering Bobbie Schwab, SKC Team Leader

Being the quiet early-birds, Bobbie and I were room-mates at the Campus Corps trainings. We read together, ate together, and talked till bedtime. I enjoyed Bobbie's openness with where she was in her life and what she was going for, as well as her interest in me. We talked about her fears and insecurities, and brain-stormed ways that we could be more of who we wanted to be in the world. She just was who she was, with honesty and love. I appreciate having known her, through life and death. Her death helps me to realize how fragile our lives and relationships are, and that rather than being "ready" to die, we just are who we are until we go. *-Jessica Jones*

Bobbie,

I knew I liked you from the beginning. You were older and I was intrigued, "Why would she want to do this?" I liked you because you were from Oregon, our shared state always.

I found you to be thorough and disciplined. Unwilling to give up your morning cup of joe, typical of one who

reigns from Portland and not scared to scold me when I needed it.

Before long you saw something in me that I didn't see, something that the odd situation of coming together with 10 strangers allowed me to be and you called me, "Sunshine." You accepted me where I was and found good in that, ever encouraging what I was just discovering.

I hope that wherever you are, all you have now, is sunshine. I wish I could have shined with you longer.

Peace. - Sunshine

I admired Bobbie. I thought she was so brave to throw herself into a life of service and move to Montana to start a new life. I was deeply saddened when I heard that dream had been cut short. I try to remember the things that she taught me and all of us in the short time that we knew her.

-Keri Jensen

We miss you, Bobbie!



SKC Team Leader, Bobbie Schwab
July 28, 1964-
November 24, 2004

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Spot Lights on Service

By Jessica Jones

Campus Corps spotlights the following stories this quarter (September-November):

- The following is an excerpt from a memo that the University of Great Falls Campus-based Supervisor received regarding two of their college student tutors: "I am writing to thank you for your efforts placing Sara and Jason in our school with the AmeriCorps program. These two individuals have made a huge difference in the lives of our students. They are great role models, they encourage and support our students, and they have very professional attitudes while working here. Programs like this help extend the services we can provide for our students. This program helps students to have a positive part of their day and great role models in their lives."
- In November, Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell held its annual "Seussville University". Over 225 local third graders spent a day at the college participating in reading activities designed to celebrate Dr. Seuss and promote a love of reading in students. The two

AmeriCorps members coordinating the project recruited 21 college volunteers who gave a total of 315 service hours to the project. Volunteers read to the children, facilitated activities, performed plays, acted as guides, and assisted with the overall coordination of the event. Elementary students, college students, faculty, staff, and the local community raved about the exciting activities that took place during this event.

- At the University of Montana, AmeriCorps members placed over 67 students from the Drama and Dance (DD) and Health and Human Performance (HHP) Departments as volunteers in local pre- and elementary schools, as well as in an Alzheimer's unit at an assisted living center. According to surveys and student reflection activities, the AmeriCorps partnership with these departments has been a huge success.



ACMAC Enhances AmeriCorps Experience

By Chelsea Fagen

In order to enhance the AmeriCorps experience throughout the state of Montana, an AmeriCorps Member Advisory Council (ACMAC) was created. Other states have also created such Member Advisory Councils (called Inter-Corps) and have found them beneficial. It is the belief of the Governor's Office on Community Service and AmeriCorps Program Directors that AmeriCorps

Members can be catalysts for increasing opportunities for civic engagement in Montana communities. **ACMAC** will be a forum in which program representatives will receive training in service day coordination and collaborative leadership, get the opportunity to engage their home communities in service projects, and be resources for AmeriCorps and VISTA members across the state by sharing their knowledge and opportunities.



MSU-N members participate in a service project.

Volunteers Make it Happen

By Jessica Jones

During the first quarter (September-November), **Sixty Campus Corps members recruited a total of 804 volunteers who contributed 9978 hours** to serving in tutoring and mentoring programs, various community agencies, and special service projects. **Approximately 2667 people were benefited from this outstanding volunteer service.** Examples of special service projects that volunteers participated in include Seussville University, Trick or Eat, Make a Difference Day, Volunteer Fairs, Midnight Mania, gift wrapping at Borders, cookie decorating at Emerson School, food drives, after-school program trips, rummage sales, and a women's shelter clean-up. **73% of volunteers surveyed about their experience believed that their projects were worthwhile, and 63% strongly agreed that they would volunteer again in the future.**



Jessica Jones, FVCC Team Leader

Campus Corps Tutoring Programs Successful

By Jessica Jones

During the first quarter (September-November), **26 Campus Corps members recruited, trained, and placed 209 tutors who served 6648 hours to assist 1098 students.** Campus Corps tutoring program coordinators focused primarily on working with schools to get their programs up and running, as well as training and placing tutors in various community schools.

In addition to initiating their various tutoring programs, Campus Corps members have also been proactively imple-

menting program improvements. The University of Montana, for example, has developed a website for tutors to check and receive updates and valuable feedback. Other sites conduct monthly roundtable meetings for tutors. Flathead Valley Community College held "Seussville University", a day in which 200 third graders engaged in a variety of fun reading activities in celebration of Dr. Seuss. In addition, the Campus Corps Program Manager's attendance at a Tutoring and Mentoring LEARNS conference prompted a series of program improvements that will be implemented for the 05-06 year.



Laura Smith, MSU-Bozeman helps out on a service project.

Collaborative Partnerships: Combining Forces to Create Change

By Marcy Spiker

From food banks to Habitat for Humanity, from youth tutoring programs to projects at nursing homes, Campus Corps members have partnered this year with a variety of non-profit agencies to lend a hand to some very worthy causes. By collaborating with and often times directly working for community-based organizations in their cities, **members from across Montana have aided 15 non-profits and a total of 876 recipients of service.** In addition, in just this past quarter of service these members were able to **recruit 243 volunteers to serve over 1,875 hours.**

Members work with these agencies in a variety of capacities and on many different types of projects. Projects take the form of either one-time special events performed for the agency or sponsored by the agency, or longer-term sustainable efforts involving members. This past fall, MSU-Billings and Bozeman campuses organized assorted



MSU-Bozeman members at a service project.

food drives through their universities to benefit their local food banks. Additionally, on UM's campus, the members worked to place over 67 service-learning students in classrooms and at assisted living centers. Still other members work on projects with additional deserving non-profits like Big Brother Big Sisters, the Montana Special Olympics, and with reading and after-school programs for children.

The work that members are accomplishing with these partnership agencies

is a benefit to both the agency itself and also the students—as it provides the unique opportunity for them to work in a professional settings with individuals very experienced in their fields. Danielle Barton of MSU-Billings believes work such as hers with Friendship House, a local community center, "helps to build bridges of partnership and collaboration between the college and the non-profit." Through their efforts and with the assistance of non-profit agencies, members in Montana are reaching out to different branches of social service and are making a positive impact on their communities.



MSU-Billings Campus Corps Team

Mentors Make a Difference in the Lives of Montana Children

By Marcy Spiker

In an effort to improve the lives of at-risk and underprivileged youth around our state, the Montana Campus Corps helps maintain various mentoring programs to serve children. In the fall of 2004, **6 Campus Corps members** received mentor training at the Building Engaged Citizens fall retreat in September. With goals set high for the coming year, these members then returned to their individual sites to begin recruiting and training students to staff their mentoring programs. **During their first quarter of service, members recruited 40 mentors to assist 216 youth.**

Campus Corps members from across the state work in an effort to improve social skills, attitudes, and behaviors among youth. They are able to accomplish this through sessions in after-school settings and community centers. Montana Tech member, Josh Bullock was able to provide mentoring

to high school-age students during weekly meetings and Saturday service projects as part of Tech's Upward Bound program. UM members Terra Jones and Wendy Hansman are working this year with children at the YWCA in Missoula. These members were also able to complete advocate training this past fall to help with their project.



Geri Seymour, MSU-Northern member and friend.

Upcoming Events

- **All-Member Gathering (all members):** Monday, February 21, Helena
- **Team Leader Spring Retreat (Team Leaders only):** February 22-23 Helena
- **Spring Site Visits (see Team Leader and Supervisor for specific dates)**
- **Second Quarter Report Due:** Friday, March 11
- **Student Training Institute and Campus Corps Member Graduation (all members):** April 8-10 in Billings



Montana | Campus Compact

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Citizenship, Civic Responsibility, and Campus Corps Members

By Marcy Spiker

It's that question you have come to know and love and look forward to at the end of each month: *Please describe a time this month that highlights your citizenship development.* Inevitably the thought crosses your mind, 'Citi-what now?'. This sounds important. This sounds familiar—like something that we have gone over at every CC training you have ever been to. Hmmmm....

Citizenship competencies are those things that remind us that in addition to making all that mad-AmeriCorps money, you are also developing your skills as a worker and preparing yourself for "a life of active citizenship". Part of the MTCC's

goal is to help members develop into competent, productive citizens and service leaders. True the work we are doing has the direct benefit of helping individuals in need, but it also has the added bonus of allowing us to perform services which hit us at gut-level as being important and worthwhile.

With regards to how they feel their citizenship competencies are developing, CC members last quarter had this to say:

-On Civic Responsibility—"My personal definition of civic engagement is a grass-roots definition. I believe that any act or action to improve or help any person or organization can be civic engagement. I am personally thinking of ways to use my AmeriCorps experience

as a catalyst to plan for my future."

-On Commitment—"This semester got a bit unbalanced in juggling AmeriCorps, school, and work...Next semester I will take fewer credits and make checklists every week."

-On Communication Skills—"To my surprise, I am an effective facilitator. I try to bring self-confidence to each meeting."

-On Leadership—"The tutoring program in Great Falls has given me a wonderful leadership experience. I have been given the chance to put together and run the program."

-On Teamwork—"This semester has been very productive in terms of establishing trusting relationships with the members of our team."