



# Campus Corps Connections

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 27, 2005

## GETTING THINGS DONE

### 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

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Layout by Keri Jensen

Articles by Kayla Perkins and Morgan Lake

## Montana Tech Members Go Above and Beyond at YMCA After School Program



Ed Lindquist

At first glance, Ed Lindquist and Tim Messick seem like average college students.

They are childhood friends from Anaconda, Montana who are both attending the Montana Tech of the University of Montana. Tim and Ed, Montana Campus Corps members both in their first-year of a two-year term of service, are the coordinators for the YMCA After School Tutoring Program. When

faced with a challenge, they don't consider it a challenge; they just do what needs to be done.

Over the Holiday break this past December and January, Tim and Ed decided that their students needed alternative ways of learning. They asked their supervisor to solicit Montana Tech for any "old computers" that they could then place at the YMCA. As luck would have it, Tim and Ed were able to get a few donated. Not only did they place them at the YMCA, they networked the computers and added specific learning programs. These learning programs

assist some very special needs learners who come to the program for tutoring.

When asked why they did it, as it is beyond the realm of most tutoring program coordinators, both Tim and Ed just shrugged and said,

**"Well... someone had to."**

**Great Job Guys!**



Tim Messick

## UM-Western Hosts Culture Fair

By Kayla Perkins

The University of Montana-Western Campus Corps team hosted a Culture Fair to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day for local elementary school children in February.

Nine presenters had stations representing Ethiopia, Greece, Australia, Polynesia, Germany, Suriname, Holland, China, and Mexico. Each student received a



Polynesian club interacting with youth at Culture Fair at UM-Western

"passport" to have stamped at each station and then could wander to the different presentations as they chose. Over 330 elementary students from Parkview Elementary School in Dillon attended the event.

All reports indicate that the best part of the event was when the UM-Western Polynesian Club students danced four different dances for the elementary school students.

## Campus Corps 2004-2005 Graduating Members

Congratulations to all the graduating 2004-2005 Campus Corps members. May you have great adventures after AmeriCorps and continue to serve for many more years to come. The world is out there just waiting for you to explore it!

### Carroll College

Chelsea Fagen--Team Leader

### Flathead Valley Community College

Jessica Jones—Team Leader

Mystel McKinley

Denise Pankratz

### Miles Community College

Jerica-Lee Bell

### MSU-Billings

Marcy Spiker—Team Leader

Danielle Barton

Lindsay Blackburn

Bridget Stoltz

Monika Wells

### MSU-Bozeman

Kayla Perkins—Team Leader

James Racine

Laura Smith

Lacy Wittman

### MSU-Northern

Anita Strommen-Team Leader

Sandy Derry

### Montana Tech

Keri Jensen—Team Leader



Josh Bullock

Dan Leonard

### Salish Kootenai College

Erica Allen

### University of Great Falls

Summer O'Hara—Team Leader

Michelle Sierra

Steven Halsted

### The University of Montana—Missoula

Morgan Lake—Team Leader

Terra Jones

Jodi Ockunzzi

Amber Schweigert

### The University of Montana-Western

Meghan Mangels

## Mentors Show Success

By Morgan Lake

As of March 31, 2005, 351 children have been mentored by Campus Corps members. According to the Campus Corps Mentee Survey, 70% of the mentees report getting into trouble less often, 67% are more hopeful about the future, 77% of the mentees go to school more regularly and 50% of the mentees understand why education is more important.

**Success Stories:** The member working at Big Brothers and Big Sisters in Helena matched all of the “littles” in a school-based lunch program to “bigs” from Carroll College. This is the first time that all matches have been met at that school. At UM-Western, their Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor was able to facilitate various group projects for the community-based mentoring project.



The MSU Bozeman team filmed a Public Service Announcement (PSA) about volunteerism. The film was directed by Campus Corps member, Lacy Wittman. Included in the PSA are shots of people involved in activities such as skiing with Eagle mount volunteers, cleaning up a community park, and working at the local food bank. The filming took place on a Saturday in April.

This photo features VISTA member Liz Condon (right) and Campus Corps Member James Racine (center)

## Campus Corps Attends First Annual Student Training Institute with Raise Your Voice

By Morgan Lake

Recently, about sixty Campus Corps members received training and practical experience in citizenship and leadership skills at the Student Training Institute (STI).

The new event, sponsored by The Montana Campus Compact, was open to Montana Campus Corps members and Raise Your Voice Student Leaders. The first annual STI was held on April 8-10 and was in part sponsored by the MSU-Billings Office for Community Involvement and Student Leadership Team.

Approximately 80 members and students came from 14 different

campuses to discuss citizenship and civic engagement. This was the first training that MTCC offered that was presented by students for students.

Montana Campus Corps members presented six different sessions. Students attended a variety of sessions including: working with student media, how to motivate other students, everyday citizenship, and how to organize a project on campus. The goal is to continue the institute in the future and to give training to those students and members who are presenting.

## Campus Corps Members Continue Success with Partnerships

By Kayla Perkins

It is the goal of Campus Corps to successfully generate resources to assist community, government, and faith-based organizations in carrying out their missions. Members are placed with these organizations to develop and cultivate the capacity of the organization.

This quarter, twelve Campus Corps members generated various resources for 15 different community, government, and faith-based organizations. Examples of members' activities included: assisting the MSU-Billings Office of Community Involvement with increasing student volunteerism by offering "Service Saturdays," assisting two college

chapters of Habitat for Humanity, assisting a Great Falls community-based organization with a conference, assisting Red Cross and RSVP with disaster preparedness projects, and developing a newsletter for Special Olympics.

### Specific examples of activities during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter include:

- The Carroll College member working with Special Olympics hosted a "Special Olympics Night" in which Carroll and Special Olympics athletes played 2 basketball games.
- The member working with Bozeman Public School's Degrees

of Reading Power Project created a "survival guide" for the staff coordinator of this program.

- The UM members assisting two departments with increasing and institutionalizing service-learning placed 28 Health and Human Performance students in an Alzheimer's assisted living facility to work with the patients.

## Substantial Number of Volunteers gathered for MLK Day

By Morgan Lake

### A quick look at the numbers:

As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005, Campus Corps Members:

- Developed and implemented 33 special or team projects benefiting 328 people.
- Recruited 284 tutors.
- Recruited 1,629 volunteers who contributed hours 15,295 hours
- 77% of volunteers surveyed believed their project(s) were worthwhile
- 77% strongly agreed that they would volunteer in the future.

### Campus examples:

The Montana Campus Corps programs require their campuses participate in at least two national service days per year. The University of Montana-Missoula (UM), University of Great Falls (UGF), Carroll College (CC) and Montana Tech (Tech) facilitated Martin Luther King, Jr., Day activities in or around their campuses

and communities this quarter.

The UM's Office for Civic Engagement in partnership with Montana VISTAs and Missoula Aging Services coordinated 15 different service sites including American Red Cross, Evergreen Health Care, Clark Fork



Danielle Barton (right) and friend set-up and organize library at Billings Community Center

Coalition, Camp Fire USA, Boys and Girls Clubs, Missoula Food Bank, Poverello Center, Easter Seals, Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, Rotary International, Missoula Humane Society, Missoula Mental Health Clinic, and the UM.

UGF coordinated 3-4 different service sites. Their service day also included a National Bell Ringing

Ceremony, and a volunteer appreciation lunch.

Carroll College members and local VISTA members helped Helena celebrate their diversity by sponsoring a diversity fair. As part of the fair, participants were asked to donate food or toiletry items to the local Friendship Center. Over 150 pounds of food and 100 pounds of toiletry items were donated.

Montana Tech sponsored a food drive to benefit Butte Head Start. Over 600 books were donated to their organization.

In total over 175 volunteers were recruited to give 618 hours of service around Montana on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

## Upcoming Events:

MTCC Monthly Advisory Board Meeting, 10 am  
Wednesday, June 1, 2005

Summer Member Training  
Missoula  
Wednesday, June 1, 2005

Team Leader Conference  
Call, 11:00 am  
Friday, June 17, 2005

MTCC VISTA Graduation,  
Helena  
Thursday, June 23, 2005

## Jessica Jones receives special award from CASA

Jessica Jones, Team Leader at Flathead Valley Community College, wanted to do a special service project for Christmas. She approached CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and asked if they would be a willing recipient of a "giving tree" on campus. She recruited volunteers and put up 2 trees on campus. She advertised the project and hoped to get 75 presents for CASA kids.



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) visited FVCC to present Jessica with a certificate and the college with a plaque for the generous contribution of gifts from the FVCC Holiday Giving Tree. Jessica said that the presentation was an emotional one, filled with tears and praises.

She and the entire Service-Learning Office at FVCC watched in amazement as present after present came in. In total, the students, faculty, and staff of FVCC donated more than 200 gifts to CASA during the holiday season.

## Campus Corps Tutoring Programs Help Montana's Children

By Kayla Perkins

As the team leader for Montana State University-Bozeman, I am exposed to many wonderful and meaningful projects. One project that stands out in my mind is the MSU America Reads\*America Counts tutoring program. This experience has opened my eyes to the academic struggles that children often face. I have learned that sometimes all a child needs is a little one-on-one time. Montana Campus Corps cares greatly about the children of Montana. Tutoring Programs are one way to directly help these children. Not only do Campus Corps members help tutor children but they also help prepare adults for the GED exam, and teach them basic skill development.

During the second quarter of service 81 adults benefited directly through work done by Campus Corps members. Also during the second quarter, 40 children from Head Start and Kindergarten level benefited from receiving tutoring through Campus Corps programs. Campus Corps pro-



Butte Upward Bound students receive tutoring from Campus Corps Team Leader, Keri Jensen

grams were responsible for assisting in the tutoring of 1359 students in grades 1-12.

Campus Corps tutoring programs continue to make strong impacts on Montana's children. All it takes is

hard work and dedication to make a positive change in the life of a child.

*"By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn."*

-Latin Proverb