



# Campus Corps Connections

GETTING THINGS DONE

Volume 1, Issue 3

August 2005



Montana | Campus Compact

## Campus Corps 2004/2005 Awards Presented to Three Members

### 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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Awards were presented to three Campus Corps members whose service went above and beyond the call of duty, enhancing the communities in which they serve and the service experience of the members with whom they work.

### **Award of Exceptional Leadership:**

**Kayla Perkins**, Team Leader, MSU-Bozeman

**Criteria:** Demonstrates campus and community leadership, motivates and inspires others, shows commitment and initiative, and works collaboratively with others.



MSU-Bozeman Team Leader Kayla Perkins doing crafts with children at a service day event.

Kayla played an integral part in all of the MSU-Bozeman Campus Corps members' projects. She worked with each member individually and in a group to help them achieve their goals, both personal and professional. She consistently worked to motivate and inspires the team members to be all that they wished to be. Her team saw her as a positive, organized, reliable leader who was there for them when needed.

### **Outstanding Service Project: Jessica Jones**, Team Leader, FVCC

**Criteria:** Well organized, showed substantial improvement to the community, brought community and campus partners together, generated volunteers, showed evidence of impact.

Jessica partnered with the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program to provide holiday gifts to deserving children. CASA serves abused, neglected, and abandoned foster children by providing them with volunteer advocates. A Holiday Giving Tree was placed on the FVCC campus and produced more than 200 gifts for area children!

### **Campus Corps Award of Excellence: Amber Schweigert**, UM- Missoula

**Criteria:** Demonstrates core components of the seven AmeriCorps Citizenship Competencies: civic responsibility, commitment, communication skills, leadership, problem solving, teamwork, and technical skills. Encourages community responsibility and serves as a role model for active citizenship.

Amber was an energetic and dynamic part of the UM- Missoula team. It was wonderful to watch her skills and confidence develop. She embodies the character of national service in so many ways. She continually involves herself, her friends, and her co-workers in service opportunities around the community.

## Campus Corps Members Continue to Build Community Partnerships

This quarter, Campus Corps members continued their work with 15 different community, government, and faith-based organizations; 42 volunteers gave 298 hours in various collaborative partnerships. Some examples of work done this quarter include assisting professors in two UM-Missoula classes with service-learning placements, assisting the Missoula YWCA with a children's group, and entering books into a public school database.

All of the organizations with which Campus Corps members serve believe that the members assist them with increasing their organizational resources. Specifically, 71.4% believe there was a significant increase in the capacity of the organization due to the



MSU-Bozeman Campus Corps members at a service day arts and crafts activity.

member placement and service. Placing Campus Corps members with community organizations is clearly an effective way to meet the needs of those communities.

During the third quarter, **Grass Roots**, of Bozeman (formerly Students Against Hunger and Homelessness), initiated a fundraising project called "Artists for Humanity," which was meant to raise money and awareness of hunger and homelessness by getting local craftsmen to donate art for an auction. The Campus Corps member working with the organization and with the Gallatin Valley Food Bank (**James Racine**) oversaw public relations for the event. In addition, he assisted with food collection during the Postal Carrier food Drive, which netted 29,416 lbs. of food.

Also in Bozeman, **Laura Smith**, worked with the **Degrees of Reading Power (DRP)** project. A database switch in the Bozeman public school system now means that all teachers and tutors with the program can find books to fit their students' reading levels. Over the course of the year, Laura has overseen the implementation of 450 books into the database.

The FVCC collegiate chapter of **Habi-**



Active Citizenship—what is it?

**tat for Humanity** saw the creation of a new student-driven board, which member **Patti Miles** hopes will help to increase student involvement in the coming year.

And in Butte, the member working with the **Reintegrating Youthful Offenders (RYO)** project oversaw the implementation of more Saturday morning activities that included training in leadership, communication, and team skills.

## Tutor and Teacher Appreciation a Great Success at MSU-Bozeman

In previous years, **MSU America Reads\*Counts** has given awards to outstanding tutors nominated by the teachers they work with, and to outstanding teachers nominated by the tutors that work with them.

ing them about the program and asking for donations.

The response, according to Casey and Amber was "shocking!" Many of the businesses contributed well beyond what had been expected of them. One business, for example, donated two \$25 gift certificates.

When all of the collecting was done, they ended up receiving enough donations to be able to recognize all of the nominated tutors and teachers. One coffee shop donated 40 free coffee drinks, so they were able to give

one drink certificate to each nominated volunteer as well.

Casey and Amber wrote of their experience: "It was so wonderful to be able to thank our tutors and teachers for all of their hard work with the program this year with gifts they could use in our community, from food to books to ice cream. They do such great work for our community; it felt great to be able to reward them!"

*Merci*

**Casey O'Harren** and **Amber Erhart**, the program coordinators serving at MSU-Bozeman with Cam-

pus Corps, wanted to continue this tradition, so they wrote and delivered letters to Bozeman businesses inform-



# National Youth Service Day 2005

Montana Campus Corps members coordinated five different projects in five communities for National Youth Service Day on **April 16, 2005**. The following is a synopsis of each project.

## Montana Tech/Butte

**47** volunteers (**37** of whom were youth) cleaned and painted at four sites: the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, the Butte Rescue Mission, Clark Park, and Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers gave a total of **235** hours.

## Carroll College/Helena

**74** volunteers (**48** of whom were youth) cleaned up four different public schools. The event was planned by Campus Corps members and AmeriCorps\*VISTAs. The service projects were done in the morning and then a thank-you dinner was held in the evening with free food and a speech by Governor Schweitzer. Volunteers gave a total of **180** hours.

## University of Great Falls/Great Falls

**28** volunteers (**24** of whom were youth) cleaned up Eagle Mount Equestrian Center for Disabled Kids. Projects at the site included pulling weeds, shoveling out horse stalls, hauling rocks, planting flowers, and sorting usable hay from stale hay. Volunteers gave a total of **168** hours.



Youth volunteers at UGF National Youth Service Day project in Great Falls.

## MSU-Billings/Billings

**42** volunteers (**30** of whom were youth) participated in two separate projects. Youth working at Zoo Montana decorated a greenhouse, and the volunteers working at the Yellowstone Art Museum created an "Art Car." Volunteers gave a total of **168** hours.



MSU-Billings volunteers get ready to work!

## The University of Montana/Missoula

Approximately **200** volunteers (**50** of whom were youth) participated in eight different service projects planned by Campus Corps members and AmeriCorps\*VISTAs. The projects included:

Walking food drive for Missoula Food Bank, which collected 765 pounds of food;

Painting of three murals for the Child Development Center;

Reading at the Missoula Public Library;

Walking recycling drive with Missoula Valley Recycling and UM Recycling, which collected 900 pounds of newspaper, 50 pounds of steel, and 25 pounds of plastic;

Cleaning up of a section of the Kim Williams trail, with over 100 lbs of debris removed;

Writing of 50 letters of support to soldiers serving in Iraq;

Cleaning up of Bonner Park; and

Assisting with decoration of studs to frame a Habitat for Humanity house.

Volunteers gave approximately **400** hours to these projects.

In total, **391** volunteers (**189** of whom were youth) donated about **1151** hours to the betterment of their communities on National Youth Service Day. What a great success!

## Upcoming Events:

**Team Leader Training,  
Helena**

**Tuesday-Friday,  
September 6-9, 2005**

**Team Leader Conference  
Call, 10:00 am**

**Friday, September 16,  
2005**

**Building Engaged  
Citizens Conference and  
Fall Orientation,**

**Helena**

**Friday – Sunday,  
September 23-25, 2005**

**Trainer Toolbox,**

**Missoula**

**October 2005 (Dates TBD)**

**Team Leader Conference  
Call, 10:00 am**

**Friday, October 21, 2005**

# Community Partner Congratulates FVCC Campus Corps Member

Campus Corps received the following letter in June regarding **Patti Miles**, FVCC Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter Coordinator:

Dear Molly,

Here at Habitat for Humanity of Flathead Valley, we are most appreciative of the work of the AmeriCorps coordinator Patti Miles in organizing a Habitat chapter at Flathead Valley Community College.

With her enthusiasm and dedication to the project, Patti is doing a great job. Continuity is always a challenge and with an ever-changing college population, we feel that Patti is meeting this challenge very effectively. We look forward to continuing to work with her in the coming college year.

Sincerely,

Jane Leivo, Executive Director

P.S. We love her and want her back.

Great Job Patti!



2004/2005 Campus Corps Team Leaders at the Spring Retreat in Helena in February.

## Volunteers Participate in Fifteen Service Projects this Quarter

**1,035** non-AmeriCorps member volunteers (NAMVs) participated in **15** different service activities this quarter, donating a total of **14,398** hours of their time. The service events in which they took part included:

UGF Pow Wow,

Camp Sky Child,

National Youth Service Day (in 5 communities—see story on page 2),

Easter for the Elderly,

A Finals Week Study Break,

An Employer Expo,

Filming of a Public Service Announcement about community involvement,

Habitat for Humanity,

Dr. Suess Day,

A Blood Drive, and

A Homeless Survey.

For the entire program year so far, **2,664** non-AmeriCorps member volunteers have participated in Campus Corps service projects, donating a total of **30,293** hours to improve the communities in which they live. **83.2%** of the volunteers felt their service was worthwhile, and **76.4%** strongly agreed that they would volunteer again in the future as a result of their experience.

## Campus Corps Mentoring Programs Have Positive Impact on Montana Youth

Campus Corps members with a number of different programs across the state that serve Montana's youth by providing them with advocates and mentors to promote improved social skills, attitudes, and behaviors, as well as providing them with out-of-class enrichment experiences, such as field trips.

This year, Campus Corps members worked with **YWCA Child Advocates** in Missoula (UM-Missoula), the **Child Advancement Project (CAP)** in Bozeman (MSU-Bozeman), **Upward Bound** in Butte (MT-Tech), and the **Big Brothers Big Sisters** program in Dillon (UM-Western).

The work these members do has a very positive effect on the youth with whom they work, as evidenced by surveys the mentees complete that ask questions about any changes in their attitude and behavior since the mentoring relationship began. Here are some of the numbers:

**73%** report getting into trouble less often.

**66%** are more hopeful about the future.

**53%** go to school more regularly.

**66%** better understand why education is important.

The Campus Corps members working with these programs involved the youth in a number of different activities and events.

CAP-MSU day brought high school students involved with mentoring to MSU-Bozeman to tour the campus, visit the radio station, and have fun with a campus-based scavenger hunt. At Big Brothers Big Sisters in Dillon, the UM-Western member paired cadets from the Montana Youth Challenge program with students in a school-based mentoring program. The response was overwhelming. The students loved the cadets and the cadets self-confidence really grew from this experience. UM-Western Campus Corps members plan to continue this program into next year.

So far this program year, a total of **288** mentors have worked with **628** youth mentees, giving **6,890** hours to mentoring activities.