



Montana | Campus Compact

# CAMPUS CORPS CONNECTIONS

A Montana Campus Corps publication

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## Campus Corps Members Continue Service to Communities During Summer Months

### Participating Campuses:

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

### Objectives:

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

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This issue was created by Gini Aten Erving and Team Leader Debbie Saylor.

This past summer, while most Campus Corps members were enjoying their vacation, members at the **University of Great Falls, Montana Tech, and Flathead Valley Community College** decided to serve in their communities.

At the University of Great Falls, summer members **Grace Davis, Stephanie Nelson, Kathryn Kruthoff, and Selina Johnson** worked on 6 one-time service projects.

Members assisted the Ulm Pishkin Center by setting up two tipis at the Lewis and Clark celebration. They also acted as helpers for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Olympiad sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club, assisting with both swimming and non-swimming events.

UGF members were able to work with their hands by helping the Great Falls Neighborhood Housing Services build 10 homes for 10 families and by painting the Vineyard Church's food pantry.

The UGF members also spent time working at summer camps, including Camp Sky Child, a summer camp for youths whose mother or father is currently incarcerated. At Camp Sky Child members assisted 85 youths with a number of activities and games. At the Cultivating Active Leadership for Life (CALL) Camp, members helped youth campers with events and activities designed to build their leadership skills.

At Flathead Valley Community College, summer member **Annie Grayson** helped with the pilot course, "Field Experience: Tutoring Young Readers." This new course at Flathead Valley Community College was created to teach students how to tutor individuals and small groups at the elementary school age-level who are struggling with reading skills. Seven students were recruited to take the class at FVCC, who then in turn helped to tutor 20 elementary students. The Campus Corps member was responsible for advertising the new course, recruiting college students, high school students and community volunteers, and making contact with the elementary school teachers and the students who were signed up to be tutored. It is evident from the member's reports that the students flourished from the one-on-one tutoring.

At Montana Tech, summer members **Joel Patton** and **Matthew Joscelyn** served at the Northern Rockies Outdoor Center (NROC). Patton also planned a community service outing where Upward Bound participants cleaned camp areas at Elk Park.

The warm weather and summer college schedules didn't prevent members from addressing their communities' needs. Thank you to those members who served or continued to serve over the summer months!

## Members' Service Helps Development of Citizenship Skills

One goal of most AmeriCorps programs is to help members develop as actively engaged citizens so that when they finish their term of service they will continue to serve the communities in which they live.

As a result of new reporting methods initiated during the 2004/2005 program year, it has been determined that **80%** of Campus Corps members incorporate the knowledge and skills they learn during their AmeriCorps service into their everyday civic lives.

For each reporting quarter, members are asked to describe two to three citizenship competencies that

have been most strengthened by their service during the reporting period. The seven citizenship competencies on which the members report are civic responsibility, commitment, communication skills, leadership, problem solving, teamwork, and technical skills.

The following are examples of what members had to say about how Campus Corps has helped them to develop as engaged citizens:

• "I'm done with my position on August 31<sup>st</sup> but I have decided to keep involved with the agencies and groups that I have been working during my service.

AmeriCorps has taught me about the needs in the community and I want to continue to help meeting those needs. I can't imagine not being involved with the community now."

• "At the beginning of my AmeriCorps experience, I had no idea what the term 'civic engagement' meant. The numerous trainings...have

given me a working definition of civic engagement...and challenged me to become a more engaged citizen...I have strived to become more active within the Bozeman community....My goals for the future include: staying updated on current events, writing my elected officials about my positions on current legislation, and perhaps one day being able to serve in a public office."



2003-2005 Campus Corps member Lindsay Blackburn works the fishing booth at a Parents Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK) event. PLUK works with children with disabilities who need tutoring help after school. The MSU-Billings CC team volunteered to help work the booths at this fundraising carnival.

### CC Member Boosts MCC Tutoring Center

Miles Community College (MCC) is a small, rural college in Miles City. The college population is primarily non-traditional students returning to the workforce, however, in recent years a number of traditional students have also enrolled. As a result, there is a diversity of learning styles and knowledge base at MCC, so the college operates an Adult Basic Education Training Center that is also open to college students for tutoring services.

During the past two years, Campus Corps member **Jerica-Lee Bell** (a full-time mom and nursing student) has served in the tutoring center, making countless efforts to increase the number of tutors and use of the center. She has assisted numerous students in bettering their grades.

In the Spring of 2005, Jerica-Lee went before the MCC Student Senate to ask for more money to support the tutoring program. Due to her diligence and excitement about service, basic education, and service-learning, she was able to secure a **33% increase in funding**.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### December 16

Team Leader Conference Call, 10 am

#### January 6

December Timesheets due

#### January 13

Team Leader Conference Call, 10 am

#### January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

#### January 19

Supervisor Conference Call, 1 pm

#### February 3

January Timesheets due

#### February 13-19

Random Acts of Kindness Week

#### February 17

Team Leader Conference Call, 10 am

#### February 20

All Member Gathering, Butte

#### February 21-22

Team Leader Spring Retreat, Butte

## Campus Corps Hires Team Leader for MTCC HQ Office

During the 4th Quarter, Campus Corps hired Team Leader **Debbie Saylor** to serve in the Montana Campus Compact headquarters office during the 2005/2006 program year. Debbie started her service at the beginning of September, along with the rest of the 2005/2006 Team Leaders and members. Those of you who've had the good fortune to work with Debbie thus far this year, would certainly agree with us at MTCC when we say that she has been an *incredible* addition to the Campus Corps program! She is so great to work with and has done an amazing job of helping Molly keep in touch with the Team Leaders and keep a finger on the pulse of Campus Corps around the state. What did we ever do without the HQ Team Leader in previous years? Welcome to Montana, Debbie!



Campus Corps Team Leader Debbie Saylor (pictured here at the Fall Team Leader Retreat in Helena) is serving from the MTCC HQ Office during the 2005/2006 program year.

## Campus Corps Tutoring Programs Help Montana Youth Increase Academic Skills

Twenty-six Campus Corps members worked with tutoring programs during the 2004/2005 program year, recruiting a total of **355** tutors to assist **2404** students. The tutors donated a total of **15,869** hours to assisting students at the elementary, middle, high school, and college levels. Teachers reported that **75%** of the students who were tutored showed an average **20-35%** increase in reading or

mathematical ability over the course of the year. Best estimates from this data indicate that most students receiving tutoring increased by at least one point or more in skill categories (skill categories being the ability to do math or read at grade level). Campus Corps members are having a positive impact on the academic skills of Montana's youth through the tutoring programs that they staff.



Campus Corps members participate in a fence-building service project.

## Campus Corps Forms Partnership with Raise Your Voice

During the 4th quarter, Campus Corps formed a partnership with MTCC's Montana **Raise Your Voice Student Leadership Initiative** to promote student service and train students and student governments on civic engagement, leadership, and communication skills. Campus Corps is excited about the new dimension to the program and the potential to guide not only AmeriCorps service in Montana, but student service in Montana in general as well. VISTA **Rose Furst** is working in the MTCC HQ office to help develop the RYV Student Leadership Initiative and plan for its future sustainability.

## Volunteers Participate in Eleven Service Projects During 4th Quarter

During the final reporting quarter of the 2004/2005 program year, volunteers recruited by Campus Corps members participated in eleven service projects. Despite it being summer and vacation time for many people, **90** non-AmeriCorps volunteers donated **296** hours toward meeting community needs. These volunteers helped with the following projects:

- UGF CALL Camp
- Camp Sky Child
- Neighborhood Housing Services Home Project
- Painting a Food Pantry
- Putting up tipis as part of a Lewis and Clark Celebration
- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Olympiad
- Community Clean-up
- Care Center Flower/Plant Project
- MT Food Bank Network Survey
- Food drive for a food bank.

Campus Corps initiatives connected people throughout Montana with numerous volunteer opportunities during the 2004/2005 program year. A total of **62** one-day service events were organized by Campus Corps members during the year, with **2,754** non-AmeriCorps volunteers recruited to participate in projects to benefit Montana communities. These volunteers donated **30,589** hours in service to their communities! And over **75%** of the volunteers surveyed said they would like to volunteer again in the future, while **77%** indicated that the service project in which they participated was a worthwhile opportunity to address a community need.



MSU-Billings Campus Corps members and non-AmeriCorps volunteers teamed-up to build this shed at a Habitat for Humanity site.

## Campus Corps Program Manager Attends Training for Community-service Professionals

During the 4th quarter, Campus Corps Program Manager Molly Collins attended a National Campus Compact training geared toward Community-service Professionals in higher education.

The training was specifically pertinent for Campus-Based Supervisors currently working with Campus Corps members across the state of Montana, as it illuminated and expounded upon what it means to run a sub-grant at a college or university. It assisted Molly in understanding the language, culture, and challenges of higher education.

What does this mean for the sustainability of Campus Corps and Campus Corps projects?

One of the most fascinating portions of the training was the section on developing campus-community partnerships, as the Montana Campus Corps program would not be possible without such partnerships. Getting community buy-in is the only way that Campus Corps projects achieve long-term sustainability.

The future goal of Campus Corps is to bring this training to our constituents and to promote the new field of Community-service Professional here in Montana.

## CC Members Have Positive Impact on Community Organizations

Of the community organizations that Campus Corps members served with during the 2004/2005 program year, over **70%** believed that their organizational resources were increased due to the members' placement. This was the first year that baseline data was gathered with the **Community Partners Satisfaction Survey**. The data indicates that Campus Corps members certainly do impact community organizations in a positive way.