Campus Corps Connections

A Montana Campus Corps publication

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Montana | Campus Compact

Participating Campuses:

- Blackfeet Community College
- Carroll College
- Dawson Community College
- Flathead Valley Community College
- Fort Belknap College
- Fort Peck Community College
- Miles Community College
- MSU-Billings
- MSU-Bozeman
- MSU-Great Falls College of Tech
- MSU-Northern
- Montana Tech
- Rocky Mountain College
- Salish Kootenai College
- UM-Helene College of Tech
- UM-Missoula
- UM-Western
- University of Great Falls

Our Mission:
Montana Campus Corps is an AmeriCorps program that engages college students in meeting community identified needs through meaningful service.

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Campus Corps Improves Lives Daily

MSU--Billings Campus Corps Member, Christine Orwick, has made a significant impact on the residents of St. John's Lutheran Ministries Retirement Home. Christine is serving her 900 hour term as the program coordinator for Adopt-A-Resident which matches MSU-Billings students with a St. John's resident buddy. This year, she recruited over twenty volunteers and has been delighted to see mutually beneficial partnerships formed. To deepen the relationship, Christine initiated the "write a biography" activity for residents and students.

Christine Orwick, pictured on the right, and a friend from St. John's.

She also implemented numerous other creative activities for the residents: a walking club, group story hour, a game show party, computer class, a hat and jewelry party and bingo.

Campus Corps Non-Stipended Members: Building a Stronger Community, One Stone at a Time

In Wolf Point, in northeastern Montana, several Fort Peck Community College Campus Corps Non-stipended members, faculty, staff, and community members participated in a landscaping and beautification project for the Boys and Girls Club. Thirty volunteers pitched in to build fifty feet of the stone wall and plant a tree. Planning for the completion of the project is underway.

Campus Corps Team Leader Summer Retreat

—Ending with a Bang—

Campus Corps Team Leaders lent a helpful hand at Helena's Food Share.

Sally McLellan of SKC gave the Helena Food Share's lawn a much needed cut.

Montana Campus Corps Team Leaders convened in Helena for an end of service retreat. Participants engaged in reflection activities, a resume workshop, goal setting for their life after AmeriCorps and a service project at Helena Food Share—the local food bank.

Team Leaders got crafty with service reflection.

MTCC Team Leader, Emily Clark, scrubbed down carts for clients.

YWCA Supports Girls Using Their Strengths

Girls Using Their Strengths (GUTS!) is a unique, Missoula community-based leadership and empowerment program designed by and for young women, ages 9 to 18. GUTS! encourages girls to explore their own personal values and discover their strengths through wilderness adventures in the summer, continuing during the school year with after school groups and community service projects. UM Campus Corps member Kim Mapp has served as a GUTS! mentor for two years. Kim believes that "programs such as this are crucial in this day and age where the media and other influences are likely to weaken girls' self esteem".

The GUTS! summer program, Outdoor Adventures, allows girls to increase their self-confidence, hone individual strengths, and cultivate their appreciation for the natural world in an environment free from societal pressures. Our outdoor adventures are designed to develop leadership skills utilizing recreation and discovery as catalysts. Summer Outdoor Adventures incorporates several outdoor skills such as backpacking, canoeing and rock-climbing.

Campus Corps Staff Profile: Eric Cardella, Campus Corps Program Manager

Eric joined MTCC in February of 2008, bringing with him a diverse background as an AmeriCorps alum, former team leader, and site supervisor to his role as Campus Corps Program Manager. Eric most recently served as Unit Director for the Boy & Girls Club of Charlottesville, Virginia, and he's spent the past 5 years recruiting, training and supporting college student volunteers and AmeriCorps members. A graduate of Washington State University, Eric is passionate about renewing the civic purposes of higher education, having concentrated his thesis and senior research to reviving classical ideals of citizenship and public service in modern liberal arts curricula. Eric and his wife, Kyra, are glad to be back in their native region of the Northwest, where they can be closer to their families in Spokane, WA. Eric is taking full advantage of Montana's open spaces as a cyclist and lover of the outdoors. He is thrilled to call Montana home!

Remembering Lyndsey Merchant

Campus Corps Non-stipended member and recent MSU-Billings graduate, Lyndsey Merchant, was tragically killed in a car accident on April 18, 2008. She was a two-term AmeriCorps member who served her first term as a Youth Development Specialist in Flagstaff, AZ and was most recently combining service with her student teaching for Huntley Project High School in Warden, MT, during the fall of 2007. Lyndsey was working as a high school English teacher at the St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, MT at the time of her death. She served in several coaching positions at both Huntley and St. Labre, and her students were greatly appreciative of the time and energy she devoted to them, both in and out of the classroom. A wonderful friend, model citizen, and passionate teacher, Lyndsey will be greatly missed!

Former student Vanessa Steiger from Pompey's Pillar said, "Lyndsey Merchant was one of the best teachers I've ever had. Even though we only had her for not even a year, most of us at Huntley loved her and were devastated to hear such terrible news. Lyndsey was not only a good teacher, but a coach and an awesome friend. I haven't ever met someone who has supported me as much as she did. She always knew what I was going through and always had advice to give. There wasn't ever a day when I wasn't happy to see her smiling face in our building…"

Stephanie Rae Pretty Boy, from St. Labre, said, "Lyndsey Merchant was such a great teacher to me. She brought such joy into my life and she touched my life like no one ever has and will. In the short five months that she taught here she has made so many friends and touched so many lives. My heart was torn apart when I heard the news I will always miss her. I miss her everyday I have to go to English or when I walk by her room and she's not standing there smiling. She lived
everyday like there was no other."

Montana Campus Compact and the MSU-Billings Office for Community Involvement express their deepest condolences to Lyndsey's family and friends, and are thankful for her service to Billings' area communities in need. (Piece compiled by MSU-Billings Office of Community Involvement Campus Corps Supervisor, Lindsay Blackburn.)

TEAM LEADERS of 2007-2008

Shelly of FVCC

Lauren of UM

McKenzie of MSU-B

Heather of Tech

Lucy of FPCC

Sue of MSU-N

Emily of MTCC

Sally of SKC

Campus Corps relies heavily on Team Leaders to support and enhance the work of campus-based teams. They improve members' experiences, support team development and help teams to reach ambitious goals and objectives.

Heather of CC

Jeff of Tech

THANK YOU FOR SERVING MONTANA

Stephenie of MSU