



Mayors Day

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National Recognition

The MCSC Celebrates the
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First Look

Bob Mc David, mayor of Columbia, MO poses at the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture with AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps VISTA, and Senior Corps Members.



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Get more of the MCSC online



↑ The 2013-2014 Annual report is available on the MCSC Website.

Facebook.com/MissouriCommunityServiceCommission

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PHOTO BY
Ashley Jones-Kaufman

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See the complete listing of the mayors and county officials involved celebrating AmeriCorps in their communities

PHOTOS FROM: ELDON R-I

Service

AmeriCorps Honors MLK

AmeriCorps programs celebrated a day of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which encourages a day 'on' not a day 'off'.

850

Pounds of food collected in conjunction with the 5th Annual MCSC Food and Coat Drive.

15

Nonprofits assisted by a partnership between College Bound, the University of Missouri St. Louis, and Mission STL VISTA Umbrella. After discussing Martin Luther King's history and legacy, the team divided and conquered the mission at hand.

Disaster

ARC Members served in cooperation with Red Cross volunteers and the Logan-Rogersville Fire department to ensure that households had working detectors; to prevent fire-related injuries and death in low income and high risk neighborhoods.

AmeriCorps: Poplar Bluff's Promise collaborated with the American Red Cross, FEMA Corps, and AmeriCorps VISTA in a fire canvass. Members gave fire safety information to families in low income areas.

Food

Members with the Missouri Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs collected food and donated it to local food pantries, churches, and organizations that help families in need.

Missouri River Communities Network assisted in operations at the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri.

Jumpstart Members served at their local food banks in Kansas City and Columbia.

YMCA of Greater Kansas City and Harvesters sorted and repackaged food, as well as participated in a service learning activity created by AmeriCorps members.

Recycle

The Purdy Reading Coaches served in cooperation with the Purdy Recycling Project to promote recycling efforts in their community. In addition to helping sort and bale recyclable products, they also canvassed their school campus to pick up trash and began looking for spring revitalization projects.

Health

AmeriCorps members at inspireSTL assisted with an **open house at the O'Fallon Recreation Complex** in St. Louis, MO. The open house offered local family and community members opportunities to engage in aerobics classes, arts and crafts, and exercise challenges.

Members with PAVE AmeriCorps in Eldon, MO planned a health and wellness event to promote healthier and more active lifestyles outside of school.

500

Coats, clothing items, and winter accessories collected in conjunction with the 5th Annual MCSC Food and Coat Drive.

Youth

Youth Volunteer Corps with the YMCA of Greater Kansas City encouraged youth volunteerism and development through clean up projects, a training on activism, and an event to create care packages for those in the military.

AmeriCorps Week

Each year during AmeriCorps Week, we recognize the commitment of AmeriCorps Members and alums by highlighting the extraordinary impact AmeriCorps makes across our nation every day. This year, AmeriCorps Week was celebrated across the country March 9-13.

To celebrate, this year AmeriCorps programs took the time to educate their community and beneficiaries, thank their Members, and share experiences.

In Eldon, MO PAVE AmeriCorps took turns sharing stories on social media about how National Service Works in their community.

At the International Institute in St. Louis, they educated their staff more about the benefits of

National Service and Members were highlighted through displays in the building.

Harvesters-The Community Food Bank, in Kansas City, MO hosted a celebration with the current Members and the AmeriCorps Alums on staff.

College Bound sponsored an informal gathering at a local restaurant in St. Louis to connect current Members to other AmeriCorps alums.

AmeriCorps Week is a time to salute AmeriCorps Members and alums for their service, thank AmeriCorps community partners, and communicate the impact of AmeriCorps on communities and on the lives of those who serve. 

← Row 1:
International Institute recognizes AmeriCorps Members on signage throughout the building.

↓ Row 2: Harvesters celebrates AmeriCorps week with cake and a group photo of current Members and alums.



The Jobpoint Garden

By: Steve Reisenberg

Missouri Rivers Community Network- Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture

In this quarter, I started working with two local agencies, Jobpoint and Navig8. Navig8 is a rehabilitation center for teens with substance addiction. We will install a vegetable garden bed and visit monthly to deliver lessons on gardening and environmental stewardship. Both CUA and Navig8 staff are excited to introduce these teens and young adults to the restorative hobby of gardening.

Jobpoint is a job training organization that also works with AmeriCorps and Youthbuild. Jobpoint trains young adults in construction skills through leading teams in building houses for low income families. Jobpoint approached the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture last year about the possibility of having a vegetable garden on site. I am taking over the garden this year, and am excited to see where these students will take it.

We had our first meeting last week, and despite it being 8:00 in the morning, the students were excited about the possibilities. Two students were particularly excited about the prospect of growing hot peppers, and another wanted to grow collard greens like his grandmother. Teaching these young adults how to grow their own food will give them an affordable source of healthy and nutritious food.

With food deserts being so prominent in low income areas, these gardening skills will reverse that trend and provide cheap healthy food for the community. The gardens also increase green space, reduce crime, and build connections between people. The students planned the Jobpoint garden themselves and planting will begin next week! 🌱



↑ Participants of the Jobpoint garden pose for a photo.

Why Everyone Needs to Know CPR

By: Jessika Foster

American Red Cross

For the longest time I have been a fighter of wanting everyone to know CPR. I always say you never know when you may need it one day to save a life. Tonight I received an email from an AmeriCorps leader in the Kansas City, MO area, Tamara. The email was from one of her fellow Corps members. This email confirmed why I leave my two children at home with their dad to travel to teach CPR, The email stated:

Tamara,

I just wanted to reach out and say how appreciative I am for the CPR training I received a little while back. Tonight my sister was taken to the hospital but before this, we were able to restart her heart using CPR. I am absolutely confident that if it weren't for this training, things would have been MUCH different tonight.

If there is any way of passing my gratitude along to

those who lead the CPR session that day, please do that.
Best,

I did not put the students name in this for privacy reasons, but this email made my night. It made traveling long distances in the state of Missouri worth it. I will always fight for everyone to know CPR because you really don't know when you will need it.

I myself thought I would never have to use in my own personal life before I became a CPR Instructor with AmeriCorps division of the American Red Cross. When my own child was one week old in 2011 I found her in her crib blue. I immediately started

CPR. I personally worked on her for forty-five minutes to the hospital. The ER doctors said it was a case of SIDS. In my case I live in a very rural community. The nearest hospital is thirty miles away. Thankfully, because of my training, my daughter is now a very hyper three-and-a-half year old. Thankfully she had no brain damage from being without oxygen for that long. She was that one in a million that survives SIDS.

This is why I do what I do. I am very thankful that my teaching actually helped another save a life. So my advice for everyone-PLEASE if you are not certified in CPR please find a class near you and take it, because you never know when you will need to use it, because it CAN happen to you. 

Service Statement

By: Sasha Seaton

Eldon R-I School District-PAVE AmeriCorps

When I began this year I did not like having such a big group. I did not feel the connection like I did the year before. To tell the truth, I felt like I did not belong and I wanted to just walk out the door then. But I did not return to serve another year because of the people I serve with. I came back because of the kids. I think that I am at a point in my life where I need them just as much as they need me. I absolutely love being at the Mustang Academy and I love being a part of the community.

Before AmeriCorps I could care less about this community. I did not care about the schools because I have no children. I did not care about jobs, politics, or anything that had to do with Eldon because my plan was to leave and never look back. Now, I have changed my whole life to revolve around Eldon and these kids that I have grown to love. I am changing my major so that when I finish my AmeriCorps service I can become a teacher at the Mustang Academy so I never have to leave my kids. I have also gone as far as starting to think

about retiring from Eldon. Because of this program I care about the schools, jobs, and politics in this community.

My whole life I have battled with depression and suicidal thoughts. I have always struggled to find a place to feel like I belong. Then I stumbled across a flyer for AmeriCorps and I thought okay I will join to get the education award and then quit and finish school. I did not know that I would care about this program this much and in the process I found myself and a reason to be here. Being here and apart of this amazing program makes me feel like I have purpose - makes me feel like I belong. This is the longest I **have ever been committed to a "job"**. I know that I might not have done the best job of being a leader or working with the students. But I plan on stepping up more to be a better example to this group. I would love it if you would let me finish my service and continue on to commit to another year of service.

Thank you for choosing me. 

AMERICORPS CELEBRATES MAYORS DAY

AmeriCorps programs across the state of Missouri celebrated Mayors and County Officials Day. More than seventy elected officials pledged their support for national service, an **almost 30% increase over last year's celebration.**

Mayors and Counties Day is celebrated yearly by National Service Programs, their participants, and local elected officials. Together they recognize the impact that National Service makes in their communities.

According to a press release from the Corporation for National and Community Service, **"We are thrilled by the extraordinary turnout of mayors and county leaders from across the country for this bipartisan recognition of the impact of national service,"** said **Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service.**

"The fact that elected leaders representing nearly half of the nation are participating is a strong testament to the dedication and effectiveness of all those who serve in AmeriCorps and Senior Corps."

In Missouri, local officials showed their admiration and support of National Service programs by signing and presenting proclamations, participating in local events, and providing certificates of excellence. These efforts were recognized by local media and the National Corporation.

This year marks the third celebration of Mayors Day and the first year to include County Officials.

For additional information regarding Mayors Day and National service, visit Corporation for National and Community Service's website: www.nationalservice.gov. 

↓ AmeriCorps Members from Missouri River Communities Network stand with MCSC Executive Director, Don Stamper and Boone County Commissioners David Atwill, Karen Miller, and Janet Thompson.





↑ Row 1: Waynesville R-VI AmeriCorps State and VISTA pose with the school Superintendent and Mayor.

↑ Row 2, Right: Waynesville R-VI Mayor, Luge Harman speaks with the volunteers.

↑ Row 2, Left: Eldon R-I

← Row 3: St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay with inspireSTL AmeriCorps State and VISTA

Row 4, Left: →
Waynesville R-VI Mayor Luge Harmon.

Row 4 Right: →
MCSC Commissioner John Albright reads to Waynesville R-VI students



County/City	Name	Position
Blue Springs	Carson Ross	Mayor
Boone County	Janet Thompson	District II Commissioner
Boone County	Karen Miller	District I Commissioner
Boone County	David Atwill	Presiding Commissioner
Boonville	Julie Thatcher	Mayor
Cainsville	Richard Wilson	Mayor
Canton	Jarod Phillips	Mayor
Cape Girardeau	Harry Rediger	Mayor
Carl Junction	Mike Moss	Mayor
Carthage	Mike Harris	Mayor
Caruthersville	Sue Grantham	Mayor
Chaffee	Steve Loucks	Mayor
Chillicothe	Chuck Haney	Mayor
Clinton	Greg Lowe	Mayor
Columbia	Bob McDavid	Mayor
Delta	Evelyn Nussbaum	Mayor
Dunklin County	Don Collins	Presiding Commissioner
El Dorado Springs	Brad True	Mayor

County/City	Name	Position
Eldon	Ron Bly	Mayor
Ewing	Linda Luenkenhoff	Mayor
Florissant	Thomas Schneider	Mayor
Fulton	LeRoy Benton	Mayor
Hannibal	Roy Hark	Mayor
Hayti	Bobby Watkins	Mayor
Hermitage	Jim Fitts	Mayor
Higbee	Robert Ashworth	Mayor
Higginsville	Bill Kolas	Mayor
Iconium	Rep Warren Love	Mayor
Jackson	Barbara Lohr	Mayor
Jamesport	Jack Turner	Mayor
Joplin	Mike Seibert	Mayor
Kansas City	Sly James	Mayor
Kennett	Jake Crafton	Mayor
Kennett	Patrick McHaney	Associate Commissioner
Kennett	Jeanie Herbst	Associate Commissioner
Lee's Summit	Randy Rhoades	Mayor



County/City	Name	Position
Lexington	Jerry Brown	Representative
Malden	Ray Santie	Mayor
Marshall	Mark Gooden	Mayor
Moberly	John Kimmons	Mayor
Nevada	Seth Barrett	Mayor
New Hampton	Charles Goodwin	Mayor
New Madrid	Donnie Brown	Mayor
O'Fallon	Bill Hennessey	Mayor
Odessa	Adam Couch	Mayor
Osceola	Larry Hustler	Mayor
Ozark	Shane Nelson	Mayor
Portageville	Dennis McCrate	Mayor
PURDY	Steve Roden	Mayor
Rolla	Randy Verkamp	Presiding Commissioner
Savannah	Connie George	Mayor
Sikeston	Jerry Pullen	Mayor
St. Charles	Sally Faith	Mayor

County/City	Name	Position
Springfield	Robert Stephens	Mayor
St. Joseph	Bill Falkner	Mayor
St. Louis	Francis Slay	Mayor
St. Peters	Len Pagano	Mayor
St. Robert	George Sanders	Mayor
Steele	Keith Samford	Mayor
Stockton	Patty Thompson	Mayor
Trenton	Nick McHargue	Mayor
Tuscumbia	Tom Wright	Presiding Commissioner
Versailles	Terry Silvey	Mayor
Warsaw	Eddie Simons	Mayor
Waynesville	Luge Hardman	Mayor
Weaubleau	Dennis Determan	Mayor
Webb City, MO	John Biggs	Mayor
West Plains	Jack Pahlmann	Mayor
Wheatland	Cary Decker	Mayor
Winston	Arvella Eaton	Mayor

Please note, this list is from the Corporation for National and Community Service and may not fully represent or include all of the elected officials that support AmeriCorps and National Service in Missouri.

↓ AmeriCorps Members, supporters, and students pose with the Mayor of Eldon and MCSC Commissioner John Albright.



John Albright, Commissioner, Finalist for Voices of National Service Award

As part of the 12th Annual Friends of National Service Awards, Voices for National Service (VNS) recognized a "first-ever" National Service Advocate of the Year award. This award honored an individual or organization that has shown exemplary determination, creativity, and results in building support for national service among our nation's leaders.

Commissioner John Albright was nominated and selected as a finalist among a field of five national candidates for this new 2015 National Service Advocate of Year award. In addition to this new award recognition at the DC ceremony on

February 10, other honorees included four senators, five representatives, two governors, and two mayors.

One of the highlights of the evening was Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah being presented with the "Edward M. Kennedy National Service Lifetime Leadership Award" (for life-time dedication to citizen service and for outstanding leadership in advancing national service as a civic commitment and legislative priority). Senator Hatch shared inspiring stories of working closely with Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the passage of the 2009 Serve America Act. 



Students Win National Volunteer Award

However effective government may be in serving the needs of its citizens, the soul of our state and its vitality as a place to live and work ultimately depend on the relationship of families, friends and neighbors. Strengthening those bonds is not as much in the hands of institutions or governments as it is in the heart of our citizens—especially those who volunteer to help people of all ages, races and religions cope with illness, overcome hardships and barriers, adjust to social changes, and fulfill their potential. These volunteers are the unrecognized, unsung heroes of our society.

Two such heroes in our state are Ms. Nicole Shah of Springfield and Mr. Blake Harris of Kansas City, who **were recently named Missouri's top you volunteers** in The 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program conducted by Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals to honor outstanding community service by young people.

Ms. Shah was honored for co-founding a nonprofit organization made up of teen volunteers from five high schools and two colleges, who have raised \$65,000 over the past two years to benefit sick children and other with serious illnesses.

Mr. Harris was recognized for making it his mission to perform lots of small but important tasks to make life easier for people in need in his community.

Distinguished finalists include Ms. Sophie Bernstein of St. Louis, Mr. Taylor Brooks of Dora, Ms. Aileen Markovitz of Wildwood, Ms. Jade McNeil of Troy, Ms. Jordan Richardson of Platte City, and Mr. Yearam Tak of St. Charles.

Ms. Bernstein advocates for the prevention of hunger and has built and maintained gardens and donated more than 5,000 pounds of fresh produce.

Mr. Brooks is the administrator of the “Snackpack

Backpack Program” at his school.

Ms. Markovitz founded the “National Honor Society Outreach Program” in effort to expand community service opportunities.

Ms. McNeil has distributed more than 500 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in need through the program she founded.

Ms. Richardson has been an active volunteer since **2010 at The Farmer's House, an organization where youth and adults with disabilities can learn practical social and vocational skills.**

Mr. Tak founded “Hope for Next Generation,” a charitable organization that pairs 40 homeless teens with student mentors who help them tackle schoolwork and personal issues.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions that these young people have made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Shaw and Harris are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The Missouri Community Service Commission heartily applauds Ms. Shah and Mr. Harris for their initiative in seeking to make their communities and our state better place to live, and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others. They have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in **toady's world, and deserve our sincere admiration and respect.** Their actions show that young Americans can—and—do play important roles in **their communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.** 

SHOW-ME SERVICE

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UPCOMING DATES

June

Southwest National Service Conference

Optional conference

June 8-10, Fort Worth, TX

<http://www.nationalservicetraining.org/southwest.html>

Program Director Training

Required training for all Program Directors funded for 2015-2016

June 16-18, Jefferson City, MO

Details to follow

MCSC VISION: To strengthen Missouri communities through volunteerism and service.

AmeriCorps engages more than 80,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. Since the program's founding in 1994, more than 800,000 AmeriCorps Members have contributed more than 1 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

The Missouri Community Service Commission (MCSC) is located within the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Its mission is to connect Missourians of all ages and backgrounds in an effort to improve unmet community needs through direct and tangible service. The MCSC serves as the administrator for AmeriCorps State funding in Missouri by awarding monetary grants and providing technical assistance and support to its sub-grantees.

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