



GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF LT. GOVERNOR BARBARA O'BRIEN

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Upcoming Dates

Commission Meeting

Friday, August 8

Labor Day

Monday,
September 1

Commission Conference Call

Friday, September 12

Capitol Blood Drive

October 2

State Service Conference

October 6-7

Commission Meeting

October 10

MLK Jr. Day of Service

January 19, 2009

Celebrating the 10th Colorado Cares Day

On Saturday, July 26, 2008, the Governor's Commission on Community Service sponsored the 10th Annual Colorado Cares Day. The day of service is dedicated to a state-coordinated initiative to encourage Coloradoans to give back to their communities by volunteering for service projects throughout the state. The timing of the day is in honor of Colorado's Statehood day, August 1st.



Volunteers of all ages lent a hand to help in their communities.

This year, 31 service projects were planned. Projects took place in counties across the Front Range and high country including: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer and Weld. Projects ranged from youth mentoring and education, environmental clean-up and repair, neighborhood revitalization, and health care. Thousands of volunteers participated, making the day one of the most productive days of service.



Volunteers worked together on a variety of projects across the state.

Colorado Cares Day promotes Governor Bill Ritter's Colorado Promise to "leave our children and grandchildren a better Colorado." "Fulfilling the Colorado Promise happens in many ways, shapes and forms and there is no better way to give back to your community than by taking a day to participate in volunteer activity," said Gov. Ritter.

Colorado is well above average in volunteerism compared to national numbers:

- Colorado ranks 18th among states in average volunteer hours per resident per year.
- Colorado ranks 8th in the rate of volunteer service performed by college students. Almost 40% of college students in Colorado serve their communities.
- Colorado ranks 16th among states in the volunteer rate of adults aged 65 and older. 27% of Coloradoans aged 65 and over volunteer to serve their communities.



"BUILDING A CULTURE OF CITIZENSHIP, SERVICE, AND RESPONSIBILITY IN COLORADO"

The GCCS is already in the planning stages for next year's Colorado Cares Day, scheduled to take place Saturday, July 25, 2009.

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AmeriCorps Members Prepare for The State Service Conference



The AmeriCorps State Service Conference Planning Committee began meeting in July to plan out this year's conference. This year's Conference will be October 6th and 7th. The Conference will be held in Estes Park, CO. Over 350 AmeriCorps Members from all around the state are expected to participate. The theme this year will be centered on Civic Engagement.

Program learning tracks are being offered on a range of topics from Program Management, Disaster Preparedness, Financial Education, and a host of other

subjects. The Governor's Commission on Community Service has the goal to provide opportunities and assistance in helping develop and train AmeriCorps Members.

Aside from the great developmental learning that will take place, fun evening and social activities are being planned as well. Members will have the chance to meet fellow

AmeriCorps members from other state and national programs. This will be a great opportunity to network with people dedicated to community service and volunteerism.

For more information on the State Service Conference or joining the planning committee, please contact Terri Jutzi at 303.866.2572.



\$1.9 million in AmeriCorps Grants to Colorado

Colorado community organizations will receive almost \$1.9 million in AmeriCorps state grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The funding will be used to place 554 AmeriCorps members in communities across the state. The AmeriCorps members will address community needs in four areas, including: education, public safety, human services and the environment.

"This is a valuable partnership between AmeriCorps and the Colorado communities that will receive services over the next year," said Gov. Ritter. "AmeriCorps members gain experience and leave behind their legacy projects for the gain of the various communities."

The Corporation for National and Community Service awarded the grants on the basis of the review and recommendation of the Governor's Commission on Community Service (GCCS), which is housed under the Office of Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien. The grants are awarded on an annual basis and GCCS supervises the recipients.

This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service will commit more than \$17.6 million to support Colorado communities through its other volunteer community service programs including: Senior Corps, Learn and Serve, VISTA and NCCC. Since 1994, more than 11,000 Colorado residents have qualified for AmeriCorps Education Awards, totaling almost \$26 million. For more information, please contact Mark Skinner at 303.866.2565.

Governor Ritter Appoints 2 New Commissioners

On July 22, 2008, Governor Ritter appointed two new commissioners to the Governor's Commission on Community Service. The newest two people to join the ranks of the GCCS are **Robert Arciniaga** of Elizabeth CO and **Cheryl Armstrong** of Denver, CO.



Robert Arciniaga was appointed to fill the business representative vacancy on the Commission. Robert is head of a company called Advisory Board Architects, (ABA, LLC) a company whose mission is to help fast growing companies in Colorado by building high level advisory boards, to allow entrepreneurial companies to access human capital for strategic growth. His goal is to keep these companies in Colorado, to keep these companies growing locally and to keep the companies and jobs here as well. Bob is the former chair of Colorado At-Risk Youth, founder and executive committee member of the Latino Community Foundation, and the Treasurer and Board member, and former head of the Latino Outreach for the Better Business Bureau Foundation. Bob notes that he has built a proprietary process and methodology that makes corporate and advisory boards run more efficiently and productively, and he is pleased to join the GCCS board and to share his expertise and best practices with the Commission.



Cheryl Armstrong was appointed because of her community service knowledge and expertise in the needs of youth. Since 1997 Cheryl has served as Executive Director, and now serves as President and CEO of *Beckwourth Outdoors*, an outdoor mountain and adventure club serving urban youth and families. Cheryl has been a leader in the Denver non-profit arena since 1998, and has served on the boards of the Colorado Historical Society, Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, is a member of the Advisory Board for the Mizel Museum, and has served as an Advisory Board Member on the Denver Mountain Parks Foundation, and Treasurer of the Five Points Neighborhood Nineteenth of June Community Celebration. In 2006 Cheryl received the Denver Business Journal Outstanding Women in Business "Jean Yancy - Small Business" Award. Cheryl has most recently served the Commission as a member of the MLK Day of Service Community Advisory Committee.

A Special Word From the Chair

Dear Partners in Service,

This has been a great summer for the Governor's Commission on Community Service. In seeing the close of Colorado Cares Day, I am amazed with the work that took place around our state. As Colorado celebrated its statehood day, it was great that so many people gave back to their communities.

To everyone that joined in a service project for this event, and to you all that serve your communities regularly, I encourage you all to continue to make Colorado a great place to live!

My special thanks to all of you,



Christine Benero
Chair, Governor's Commission on Community Service

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dear Service Community,

Despite our best intentions, we often overlook opportunities to say "thank you" for a job well done.

This summer we are excited to present our first annual *AmeriCorps State Programs Mid-Year Report*, available August 8, 2008. This report features the accomplishments of all

AmeriCorps*State programs in program services such as: youth development, early childhood development, health care, public safety, energy conservation, senior services, economic development and higher education.

The mid-year report recognizes the hard work and major achievements of AmeriCorps members throughout

the state. Not only is this service enriching the lives of others, but AmeriCorps members are also learning valuable lessons in leadership, civic responsibility, cooperation and integrity.

A companion document, the Commission's Annual Report, will be produced at year's end. These two documents serve to remind us all of the hard work and boundless spirit of AmeriCorps. To access an online version of the *AmeriCorps State Programs Mid-Year Report*, please visit our website, www.colorado.gov/gccs.

Many thanks to all of you for your service!

Toya M. Nelson
Executive Director
Governor's Commission on Community Service

The GCCS Announces Funding Opportunities

The Governor's Commission on Community Service (GCCS) is pleased to announce the availability of funding to support new and competing Colorado AmeriCorps State programs to start in the Fall of 2009.

AmeriCorps funds are available to nonprofit organizations, state and local government units, higher education institutions, faith-based organizations and 501(c)3 entities that address critical community needs in the areas of education, environment, human needs, public safety and homeland security.

Special consideration will be given to projects that address one of more of the following five strategic initiatives as outlined by the Corporation for National and Community Service:

1. Mobilizing more volunteers
2. Ensuring a brighter future for all of America's youth
3. Engaging students in communities
4. Harnessing Baby Boomer's experiences
5. Helping communities recover from and prepare for disasters

Additionally, special consideration will be given to projects that address one or more of the following Colorado initiatives in:

1. Governor Ritter's Colorado Promise and the Lieutenant Governor's strategic initiatives
2. Rural, underserved, and areas of extreme poverty in Colorado
3. Priorities identified in the GCCS Needs Assessment Study

Please refer to the Commission's website at: <http://www.colorado.gov/gccs> for additional information including:

- Full text of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (Corporation for National and Community Service)
- AmeriCorps regulations and provisions
- Grant application timeline,
- Application and intent to apply forms, and
- Dates for pre-application sessions
- Information about Colorado initiatives

For further information contact Mark Skinner, PH: 303 866-2565, mark.skinner@state.co.us

**The Governor's Commission on Community Service Presents
The 2008 AmeriCorps State Service Conference
October 6-7, 2008 - Estes Park, Colorado**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

**OCTOBER
& 6
7**

**Knowledge
IS
POWER**

2008 State Service Conference - Estes Park, Colorado



**For more information
or to register for the State Service Conference
please visit, www.colorado.gov/gccs or call 303.866.6426**