



# AmeriCorps NCCC E-Newsletter

November 2009

[www.americorps.gov/nccc](http://www.americorps.gov/nccc)

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## Message from Acting NCCC National Director Mikel Herrington

Welcome to the AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) e-newsletter. We are excited to initiate this quarterly publication as a means to keep our alumni, community sponsors and supporters abreast of the latest developments in NCCC. Without a doubt, the passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act has been the highlight of this phenomenal year for national service. In April, NCCC celebrated the graduation of our first class of corps members at the North Central campus in Vinton, Iowa. More recently, Advisory Board Vice-chair Kate Becker and I accompanied Acting CEO Nicky Goren to Vicksburg, Mississippi as she inducted the first class of members into the

NCCC at the new Southern Region campus. Finally, with President Obama's nomination of Patrick Corvington as the CEO of the Corporation, the final pieces are falling into place for a newly energized national service network.

Since beginning my tenure as Acting Director of NCCC in January, I have had the pleasure of working with an exceptional Advisory Board and staff team as we prepare for the implementation of changes to the program under the Serve America Act. The most significant change is that NCCC is no longer deemed a demonstration program but is codified as a core national service asset of the Corporation. NCCC is one of the Corporation's three complimentary AmeriCorps pathways to national service, along with AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps State and National. The Act defines the NCCC's purpose as combining the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service, including leadership and team building, to meet national and community needs. Our newly articulated service focus areas are: (1) natural and other disasters; (2) infrastructure improvement; (3) environmental stewardship and conservation; (4) energy conservation; and (5) urban and rural development.

The Serve America Act also establishes a 50% target by 2012 for NCCC member enrollment of youth from disadvantaged circumstances. This target aligns perfectly with the program's long-term goal of creating a more diverse corps in which members of different ethnicities and backgrounds benefit by serving together. To this end, we are actively seeking to collaborate with organizations that may serve as pipelines for recruitment of diverse populations, including youth from disadvantaged circumstances. We have formed the first of such collaborations with the National Guard Bureau through its Youth Challenge program and look forward to welcoming a number of their cadets into the NCCC this coming January.

The Serve America Act creates the framework through which NCCC's potential can be reached. Our goal is to maximize enrollment at our campuses so that our service impact on communities and members is more fully realized and so that we achieve operating efficiency within our campuses' physical capacity. Our four to one ratio of applicants to those accepted indicates that there is no lack of interest from potential members, and demand from communities for NCCC services continues to outstrip our corps' resources. We look to the horizon and see more clearly than ever the critical role NCCC members will continue to fulfill in providing service to communities across the nation. Thank you for your support as we honor the public's trust in our commitment to service.

## NCCC Advisory Board Members

Richard E. Carver, Chair of  
NCCC Advisory Board  
President, MST America

Kate Becker, Vice Chair of  
NCCC Advisory Board  
Vice President, KaBOOM!

Susan Braun  
Executive Director,  
Commonweal

Shaun L.S. Donovan  
U.S. Dept. of Housing and  
Urban Development

Steven Dow  
Executive Director,  
Community Action Project of  
Tulsa

Arne Duncan  
Secretary of Education

Robert M. Gates  
Secretary of Defense

Alan L. Gropman, Dr.  
The Distinguished Professor of  
National Security Policy,  
National Defense University

Mikel Herrington  
Acting Director, AmeriCorps  
NCCC

Ray LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation

Rex Linder  
Law Firm Partner, Heyl,  
Royster, Voelker & Allen-  
Peoria, IL

Gen. Craig R. McKinley  
Chief, National Guard Bureau

Antonio M. Pérez  
Secretary-Executive Director,  
City of Milwaukee Housing  
Authority

Maj. Gen. (ret) Phillips, John  
Consultant, Phillips Defense

Ambassador J. Steven Rhodes  
Consultant, J. Steven Rhodes  
Consulting

Martin W. Rodgers  
Senior Executive, Accenture

Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior

Stephan Sharf  
President, SICA Corporation



## Message from NCCC Advisory Board Chairman Richard Carver

I am pleased to be a part of the inaugural edition of the AmeriCorps NCCC e-newsletter, and I hope each person who receives this issue, and others in the future, will find great value in the contents.

I have had a number of jobs in my life time, but the one that provided the most satisfaction was the twelve years I spent as the Mayor of Peoria, Illinois. I not only appointed over 600 volunteer citizens to our many Boards and Commissions, but I was also able to assist in creating groups who provided volunteer effort for projects throughout our City. The quality of life in almost every American city of any size is greatly influenced by the willingness of each citizen to volunteer their time to make their community a better place in which to live.

I have been the Chair of the NCCC Advisory Board for a number of years, and I have experienced the wonderful level of commitment that each person involved in the NCCC brings to all that we do. The NCCC has left behind many communities better than before they arrived, and clearly, the disaster relief projects are a hallmark of the impact that the NCCC teams have had!

We are now entering into a new era, based on the passage of the Serve America Act. I believe that the door has not only been opened to increasing the number of corps members, but the new Act also identifies the need for the specific efforts of our teams. This is particularly true of disaster relief, where the NCCC is seen as a lead in providing leadership, but it also applies in the other identified areas such as urban and rural development. The Congress also increased the number of members of our Advisory Board by Statute. This means that individuals like the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Chief of the Forest Service, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Energy are now members. The Advisory Board is now positioned to be even more effective in assisting the NCCC staff in achieving our goals for the future.

All of this will add to the quality of the experience of new corps members and team leaders. However, it also emphasizes the need to take that experience into the next phase of their lives by becoming key members of the volunteer component of the communities in which NCCC alumni will eventually live. The NCCC should always be seen as a beginning point in a lifetime of service to the communities of our country. I am personally convinced that together using a commitment to service, we can continue to ensure that the United States of America continues to be the greatest country on Earth.

## NCCC Advisory Board Members Continued

Hilda L. Solis  
Secretary of Labor

Lt. General Jack Stultz  
Chief of Army Reserve

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture

Dr. Janet E. Wall  
President and Founder, Sage Solutions

Former Senator Harris Wofford

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Pacific Region  
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McClellan, CA 95652  
Phone: 916-640-0300

Southern Region  
2715 Confederate Ave.  
Vicksburg, MS 39180  
Phone: 601-638-1402

Southwest Region  
3001 S. Federal Blvd.  
Walsh Hall, Rm. 136  
Denver, CO 80236  
Phone: 303-844-7400

Headquarters  
1201 New York Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20525  
Phone: 202-606-6696

[www.americorps.gov/nccc](http://www.americorps.gov/nccc)

## Sponsor Spotlight

Central Cedar Rapids Weed and Seed, a program run by the Community Corrections Improvement Association (CCIA) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, usually known for assisting neighborhoods by "weeding out" criminal activity and "seeding" the area with human services resources took on a whole new mission when its neighborhoods were impacted by the 2008 Floods. CCIA along with the United Way opened the Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) later to become the Community Resource Center (CRC). The VRC/CRC became home base for not only volunteers looking to serve the area, but also homeowners seeking assistance in rebuilding their homes after they had been affected by up to 10 feet of water.

AmeriCorps NCCC North Central Region has been partnering with CCIA to aid in the recovery efforts since July 2008. NCCC accomplishment highlights include 157 damage assessments completed, 100 homes mucked and gutted or drywalled, and 1102 volunteers led. "This is our first time sponsoring NCCC teams and we couldn't be happier with the outcome. They were a well trained and disciplined crew. Their work exceeded our expectations." said Bruce VanderSanden, Weed and Seed Coordinator and project sponsor.

"Round 3 in Cedar Rapids has been the most rewarding aspect of my time in AmeriCorps



NCCC thus far. It gave me the opportunity to see a meaningful impact be made on a community that still needs the help desperately. It has had such an impact that I am applying for a VISTA position with Weed and Seed." said Patrick Drake, former NCCC member. He along with six other members of Class XV are currently working with CCIA on flood recovery.

## NCCC Disaster Relief & Recovery Efforts

### Atlanta Georgia – Flood Relief

During the week of September 22, 2009 flooding in the Southern U.S. extended from Alabama through Georgia into eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. The NCCC Southern Region Campus anticipated the call for help and was ready to deploy when Nechama, a Jewish Community Disaster Response group, requested assistance with debris and mold removal. A composite team was formed and as of Oct. 14, the team has cleaned and removed more than 1.5 tons of debris at five homes, completing the cleanup process in two homes and coordinating the efforts of 34 volunteers who are working on three of the residences. They returned to the Southern region campus on October 23, 2009.

### Louisville, Kentucky – Flood Relief

On August 4th, 2009, Louisville, KY experienced severe rains that led to devastating flooding in the city. The flooding was in basements, and in numerous cases first floor living areas. Since August 4<sup>th</sup> over 11,000 applications for FEMA assistance have been received from individuals and over 1,700 calls for assistance with cleanup have been made to the help line at Metro United Way. As of September 25 over 800 homes have been cleaned and sanitized thanks to the many wonderful teams from both Kentucky and out of state. When an NCCC team responded in early September, there were still 200 homes that needed cleanup. River 3 deployed on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, has been working in partnership with the Christian Appalachian Project team (CAP) Metro United Way. As of Oct. 14, the team had completed cleanup in about 35 homes, removing about 20 tons of debris in the process. They return to the Southern Region on October 23.

## Important Dates

### 2009

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>-2011 Winter Corps Member application listing opens (closes 7/1/10)

Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>- Southern Region round 4 project concept forms due

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>- Class XVI Induction for Fall 2009 campuses

Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>-Pacific Region round 2 project applications due / Southwest Region round 3 project concept forms due

Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>-Graduation Atlantic Region Class XV

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>-Southern Region round 4 project applications due

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>-North Central Region round 2 project concept forms due

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>-Atlantic Region round 1 project applications due

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>-Advisory Board meeting

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>-Southwest Region round 3 project applications due

Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>-North Central Region round 2 project applications due

### 2010

Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>-American Humanics Institute

Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>- Atlantic Region round 2 project concept forms due

Jan 8<sup>th</sup>-Pacific Region round 3 project concept forms due

Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>-MLK Jr. Day

Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>-Southwest Region round 4 project concept forms due

Jan.25<sup>th</sup>-Pacific Region round 3 project applications due

Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>-2011 Winter Corps Team Leader application listing opens (closes 8/1/10)

Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>-North Central round 3 project concept forms due

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>- Atlantic Region round 2 project applications due

Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>-Southwest Region round 4 project applications due

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>-North Central Region round 3 project applications due

## American Samoa – Tsunami Relief

On Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> a magnitude 8.0 earthquake struck the Pacific near American Samoa, triggering towering tsunami waves that gushed over the island. The President declared the Territory of American Samoa a federal disaster area making funding and resources available immediately.

Twenty-one NCCC team leaders, from both the Sacramento and Denver campuses, were called to service through the American Red Cross (ARC) Sacramento Sierra Chapter and the ARC Denver Mile high Chapter. The team leaders, plucked ripe from Team Leader Training, assisted the American Red Cross with mass care during a three week assignment to American Samoa. The primary work focused on shelter management, need assessments, assembling and distributing care kits, warehouse management and organization, and client case work. Team leaders returned Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## Alumni Profile

### *Atlantic Region's Hall of Fame Inductee Cooks Up Recipe for Service*



Alvin Yu likes to cook. As a team leader in Class VIII at the Perry Point campus, Alvin would stress to his team members that the people they served didn't have the money to eat just anything they wanted. "And we wanted to be good stewards of the government's money. So we may have wanted Oreos, but we'd get Hydrox," he said. It was a good way to teach a life lesson.

Today, Alvin uses cooking in a different way, but still it's a means to an end. "Cooking professionally allows me to fund my non-profit work", he explains. So while he enjoys his work as a personal chef, it really is the fuel that allows him to pursue his passion working with the Multi-cultural Youth Project (MCYP), a non-profit organization he directs in the Uptown area of Chicago.

"Cooking for people and serving people are both about satisfying a need," Alvin explains. And Alvin has cooked and served his entire life. He grew up in a restaurant family in San Francisco. In addition, he has spent more than nine years working with youth, empowering them to become "responsible, compassionate and active leaders".

Part of that nine-year history was spent with NCCC at Perry Point, where he worked in an after-school program in New York City and with youth at a summer camp in Buffalo, New York. Alvin enjoyed the experience so much he decided to see if he could replicate it at a different NCCC campus. So he applied to be a team leader in Class IX at the Denver Campus and spent his second NCCC year serving even more people. "My favorite assignments had direct impact and resulted in change," Alvin said.

Since his NCCC experience, service work has played an important role in Alvin's life. Through Livestrong, Lance Armstrong's organization, Alvin raised more than \$1.5 million for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. He also worked with youth in the Chinatown area of San Francisco.

The Uptown area of Chicago is bustling with a large immigrant population. According to Alvin, on any given day you can hear 32 different languages being spoken. It's in this environment that Alvin began working with the area youth more than three and half years ago. The MCYP started with no location and no kids but through Alvin's vision and hard work, it has grown to serving nearly 50 young people, sponsoring eight programs and having its own location.

## NCCC in the News

Click here ([Media Hits](#)) to see additional media and event highlights from the AmeriCorps.gov website.

### *Volunteers Find Muck and Meaning In Service*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/07/us/07land.html?\\_r=3&pagewanted=1&ref=us](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/07/us/07land.html?_r=3&pagewanted=1&ref=us)

### *AmeriCorps volunteers sworn in to dig in*

<http://www.vicksburgpost.com/articles/2009/09/02/news/doc4a9ea1ae622e1904961509.txt>

### *Newsmaker of the Day: Colchester woman graduates after spending 10 months working with AmeriCorps*

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/lifeevents/achievements/x1170600716/Newsmaker-of-the-Day-Colchester-woman-graduates-after-spending-10-months-working-with-AmeriCorps>

### *Group Cleans Up After Disasters*

<http://www.thenews.org/features/group-cleans-up-after-disasters-1.1914080>

### *AmeriCorps NCCC kicks off second class in Vinton*

[http://communitynewspapergroup.com/articles/2009/10/09/cedar\\_valley\\_daily\\_times/news/doc4acf515353d51553032519.txt](http://communitynewspapergroup.com/articles/2009/10/09/cedar_valley_daily_times/news/doc4acf515353d51553032519.txt)

### *Local hero completes AmeriCorps NCCC service*

[http://rosevillept.com/detail/126723.html?content\\_source=&category\\_id=&search\\_filter=&user\\_id=&event\\_mode=&event\\_ts\\_from=&event\\_ts\\_to=&list\\_type=&order\\_by=&order\\_sort=&content\\_class=1&sub\\_type=&town\\_id=](http://rosevillept.com/detail/126723.html?content_source=&category_id=&search_filter=&user_id=&event_mode=&event_ts_from=&event_ts_to=&list_type=&order_by=&order_sort=&content_class=1&sub_type=&town_id=)

### *Denver Corps Members Sent to American Samoa*

<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=124348&catid=188>

## My AmeriCorps Portal Update for Alumni

"I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond." Remember that part of the AmeriCorps pledge? In an effort to help you carry that commitment with you, NCCC wants to make sure that we can stay in touch with all of our alums. One of the tools we use to do this is the My AmeriCorps portal.

My AmeriCorps is an online space designed to help members and alums manage their AmeriCorps experience. It provides an easy way for individuals to get and give important information – before, during and after their service. It makes frequently used and requested forms available online, any time. Examples include the application, reference forms, tax forms, earnings statements, and Segal AmeriCorps Education Award requests.

To keep your contact information up-to-date, please go to [my.americorps.gov](http://my.americorps.gov). From there, you can either create an account if you don't already have one by selecting "create new Member/Alum account" or log in to your existing account. If you have forgotten your username or password, click on the appropriate link, and you will be sent an email with instructions on how to retrieve them. If you no longer have access to the email address you originally signed-up with, call the AmeriCorps hotline (800-942-2677), and they will reset it for you.

## Attention All NCCC Alumni!

AmeriCorps NCCC and American Humanics have partnered to offer all NCCC alumni the opportunity to pursue and receive a Certificate in Non-Profit Management. You must have a Bachelor's degree to enroll in this program.

The requirements are that you take two online courses (either undergraduate or graduate) in Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Non-Profit Management and Fundraising Principles and Practices, and attend the annual American Humanics Management Institute (AHMI), which is held the first week of January. Your education award can cover both course's tuition costs (in-state costs no matter where you live in the USA) and the registration fee for AHMI.

To begin the application process for the AH/NCCC Certificate first contact the AmeriCorps NCCC Partnership Coordinator, [partnershipcoordinator@humanics.org](mailto:partnershipcoordinator@humanics.org) or 800/343-6466 ext. 113.

All applicants must complete the following application and submit to the National Office. Since deadlines for the online campuses vary, it is best to contact the National Office first in order to ensure an efficient application process.

### Download any of the following applications/tools to help get your AH/NCCC experience on its way!

[American Humanics Basic Application \(hard copy\)](#)  
[American Humanics Basic Application \(electronic copy\)](#)

Mail to:  
NCCC Partnership Coordinator  
1100 Walnut, Suite 1900  
Kansas City, MO 64106, or  
[partnershipcoordinator@humanics.org](mailto:partnershipcoordinator@humanics.org)

[Checklist for Winter/Spring 2010 Enrollment](#)

**deadline November 30, 2009**

[LSUS Graduate Application](#)

for any NCCC member finished with their bachelors and interested in the Louisiana State University at Shreveport Online Program

[LSUS Undergraduate Application](#)

for any NCCC member still working on their bachelors and interested in the Louisiana State University at Shreveport Online Program

[Member Management System Instructions](#)

All AH/NCCC members must sign-up for this.

## NCCC in the News

### ***Identical twins share service experience***

[http://www.sltrib.com/ci\\_12844619?source=email](http://www.sltrib.com/ci_12844619?source=email)

### ***Spirit of volunteerism rebuilds***

[http://baltimoretimes-online.com//index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=678&Itemid=31](http://baltimoretimes-online.com//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=678&Itemid=31)

### ***Littleton Man Donates Time to Hurricane Relief***

[http://coloradocommunitynews-papers.com/articles/2009/08/27/littleton\\_independent/news/03\\_hc\\_hurricane\\_li.txt](http://coloradocommunitynews-papers.com/articles/2009/08/27/littleton_independent/news/03_hc_hurricane_li.txt)

### ***American Samoa: AmeriCorps Contributes to Red Cross Relief Efforts***

<http://www.redcross.org/portals/site/en/menuitem.1a019a978f421296e81ec89e43181aa0/?vgnnextoid=cf6d44da90a44210VgnVCM10000089f0870aRCRD#>

## What Do You Think?

Address your comments, concerns, questions to:

[NCCC\\_Newsletter@cns.gov](mailto:NCCC_Newsletter@cns.gov)

## NCCC/National Youth Challenge Collaboration

AmeriCorps NCCC is gearing up for a promising new collaboration with the National Guard Youth Challenge Program ***From Cadet to Corps Member***. The NCCC and National Guard Youth Challenge collaboration is an excellent opportunity for both programs to support youth as they transition from the discipline and core skills learned in Youth Challenge to the direct service and leadership opportunities that await them as NCCC corps members. Moreover, because NCCC is a viable option for the placement of Youth Challenge cadets, our collaboration helps Youth Challenge meet its placement goals. At the same time, it will assist NCCC to reach its legislative target of increasing the number of youth from disadvantaged circumstances to 50% of the corps, as called for in the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

On February 8, 2010, our Atlantic Region campus, located in Perry Point, Maryland, will welcome our first Youth Challenge alumni!

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## NBC Dateline Documentary to Focus on NCCC Program

NBC Dateline is currently filming a documentary on life inside AmeriCorps NCCC to air this winter and featuring members from the Southwest Region campus in Denver, CO. This will be a multi-platform initiative, which will air not only on Dateline as a long-form documentary but also as short two-minute segments on the Today Show and on Nightly News and be featured on MSNBC.com.

NBC's interest was stimulated by the President's call to service and the surge in applications to AmeriCorps. The primary focus of the documentary will be on the service experience of the member and the transformative nature of the NCCC program that allows young adults to change and grow from their experience while impacting the communities they serve.