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**Nebraska swears in new class of AmeriCorps members as part of
Nationwide AmeriCorps 20th anniversary**
Pledge ceremony kicks off new AmeriCorps class

(Lincoln, Neb.) – Today a new class of Nebraska AmeriCorps members will pledge to “get things done for America” as part of a nationwide ceremony to mark AmeriCorps 20th anniversary.

First Lady Sally Ganem and honorary chair of ServeNebraska will lead the AmeriCorps pledge ceremony, taking place at 10:30 am CST at the State Capitol, 1445 K St., Lincoln, Nebraska in the Rotunda. The event kicks off a year of national service for more than 250 AmeriCorps members across the state.

The ceremony is part of a nationwide, simultaneous swearing-in of AmeriCorps members taking place in every state on the same day. President Obama will lead the nationwide ceremony and give remarks to AmeriCorps members at the White House. At 11:30 am EST, AmeriCorps members from coast to coast will take the AmeriCorps pledge, launching a new service year for 75,000 AmeriCorps members.

Since 1994, more than 5,400 AmeriCorps members in Nebraska have served more than 8,680,000 hours of service. They have earned education scholarships totaling more than \$19,800,000 to help pay for college or pay back student loans.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, Adam Morfeld, Executive Director and Founder of Nebraskans for Civic Reform will provide a special presentation on community service.

“Every day, in communities across Nebraska, AmeriCorps members are getting things done to make our state stronger and better,” said Cathleen Plager, Executive Director, ServeNebraska. “We are proud of the extraordinary accomplishments of Nebraska’s AmeriCorps members over the past 20 years, and are excited to welcome a new class as they embark on a year of service.”

ServeNebraska provides guidance, direction, and administration to the development and implementation of AmeriCorps programming throughout Nebraska. Led by volunteer Governor-appointed Commissioners and managed by a small skilled staff, ServeNebraska works to grow the strong spirit of service in Nebraska. To learn more, visit www.serve.nebraska.gov.

“AmeriCorps members make a powerful impact on the toughest challenges facing our nation,” said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National Service, the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps. “Building on Nebraska’s strong tradition of neighbor helping neighbor, AmeriCorps members have improved countless lives across Nebraska over the past 20 years. AmeriCorps has become an indispensable solution for America’s communities.”

AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.

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