

## 9.1 NEBRASKA PDAT TRAINING EVENTS OVERVIEW

ServeNebraska receives annual federal PDAT (Program Development Assistance and Training) grant funds to assist with training, professional development and promotion for AmeriCorps programs in Nebraska. As part of this effort, ServeNebraska coordinates a few large-scale training events every year.

The AmeriCorps Kick-Off and swearing in ceremony is an opportunity for AmeriCorps members from program across the state to come together to celebrate the beginning of their service term. This also provides an opportunity for all the members to meet each other, learn about one another's programs, learn the rules that govern their service and obtain training and other resources to assist them throughout their service term. This event has varied in length and location, but is typically held in the Lincoln-Omaha area, and is usually a full one-day event.

PDAT funds also provide financial assistance for the bi-annual Governor's Conference on Community Service, an event that celebrates Nebraska volunteers and provides cutting edge educational opportunities for participants. The Governor's Conference is the largest event ServeNebraska coordinates, in number of participants, cost and audience representation. It offers attendees plenary and keynote addresses and breakout session opportunities on subjects ranging among non-profit leadership, collaboration, community disaster preparedness, disability-related issues, marketing and harnessing creativity.

As of 2009, the Governor's Conference will become a bi-annual event, with the off years dedicated to a volunteer recognition event, such as an awards dinner. Participants at both of these events represent national service programs, regional non-profits and other volunteer organizations, business leaders, volunteers and government agencies. The Governor's Conference on Community Service typically lasts two days, and is held in Lincoln or Omaha. The bi-annual recognition and awards event is a partial one day event held around a dinner or luncheon, also in the Lincoln or Omaha area. During years when the full Governor's Conference takes place, the recognition and awards event is included as part of the program.