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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 7, 2022

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College Possible Receives \$648,000 in AmeriCorps Funding to Improve College Access

Omaha, NE – ServeNebraska and AmeriCorps announced today that College Possible Omaha has received a \$648,000 grant from the federal AmeriCorps agency. The College Possible AmeriCorps program began in Omaha in 2014 and has provided quality mentors to students in the Omaha area.

This AmeriCorps grant will support 30 AmeriCorps members serving as mentors and track the progress of students' education, college preparation and success. The program strives to improve access to higher education and empower students to take control of their education.

Currently, there are College Possible AmeriCorps coaches serving students in nine schools across the Omaha metro. They serve high school juniors and seniors at Benson High Magnet, Bellevue East, Millard South, North High Magnet, Northwest High Magnet, Papillion-La Vista, Ralston, South High Magnet and Westside schools.

AmeriCorps coaches meet with students twice weekly, help them prep for ACT testing, educate them about applying for financial aid and much more. The program stands out among other mentoring programs by continuing to support students throughout their undergraduate college careers.

"College Possible AmeriCorps members have experience navigating the college and financial aid application processes," said Cathleen Plager, executive director for ServeNebraska. "They understand how difficult it can be to succeed without support and they provide the expertise to help these kids achieve their dreams."

Every year, 65,000 AmeriCorps members serve through thousands of nonprofit, community and faith-based organizations across the country. In addition to a modest living stipend, health care, and child care; AmeriCorps members are awarded a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award up to \$6,495 per member at the completion of their term of service.

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About ServeNebraska

ServeNebraska is governed by a 15-member, bipartisan board appointed by the Nebraska governor. Its mission mobilizes Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through collaboration, volunteering and national service. ServeNebraska oversees AmeriCorps programming, hosts the state's most prestigious volunteer awards – the Governor's Step Forward Awards, and provides training and technical assistance. To learn more, visit www.serve.nebraska.gov.

About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for volunteerism and national service, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency places more than 250,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers. Learn more at www.americorps.gov