

Scott Walker
Governor

Paula Horning
Board Chair

Jeanne Duffy
Executive Director



1 West Wilson St., Rm. B274
Madison, WI 53703

ServeWisconsin@wisconsin.gov

Facsimile: 608-251-3024

servewisconsin.wi.gov

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Contact:

Jeanne Duffy, Serve Wisconsin
(608) 261-6716

jeanne.duffy@wisconsin.gov

Photos available upon request

Governor's Service Recognition Honorees Announced

[Madison, Wisconsin] – Four honorees will be recognized at the 2018 Governor's Service Recognition ceremony from 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on April 30th at Green Lake Conference Center located at W2511 WI-23, Green Lake, WI 54941. The event honors outstanding volunteers, national service participants and programs that have helped to address serious social needs in their communities. These honorees have made significant contributions to Wisconsin through their service efforts.

2018 Governor's Service Recognition Honorees

AmeriCorps Member of the Year

Terrance Sims, Teach for America Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)

AmeriCorps Program of the Year

Project 16:49, Wisconsin Association for Homeless & Runaway Services (Janesville, WI)

AmeriCorps VISTA Participant of the Year

Trevor Cooper, Wisconsin Association of Free & Charitable Clinics (Oconomowoc, WI)

Senior Corps Participant of the Year

Pat Knuth, ERAs Senior Network (Waukesha, WI)

About the 2018 Governor's Service Recognition Honorees

AmeriCorps Member of the Year

Terrance Sims- Teach for America Milwaukee

Teaching is a profound act of leadership. Terrance Sims aspires to make his community stronger through empowering students. He is one of the most passionate, creative and talented teachers you will ever meet, and he effortlessly builds relationships with students and their parents while connecting the community to his classroom. He consistently leads his students to make impressive academic growth while instilling them with a love of learning. In Terrance's first year of teaching, all of his fourth grade students surpassed their individual Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) math goals and collectively his class demonstrated over 230% academic growth. His students consistently ranked at the top of the K-8 school in accelerated reading data, and all of his students completed the year reading on at least a fourth grade reading level. People across the city of Milwaukee as well as the nation are talking about what



Terrance is doing in the classroom. For Black History Month, Terrance created a “Representation is Key” project that gained national recognition. His students researched famous African-American figures to learn about their contributions to society, wrote essays about what they learned and posed for photographs dressed as these role models. The first image they recreated was the cover art for the Oscar-nominated movie *Hidden Figures*. The graphic went viral and national media coverage resulted in a free field trip to NASA for Terrance and his students. In another project, Terrance and his sixth grade students remixed a popular rap song into a song called “Excellence First” about learning and achievement. This project also went viral and attracted the attention of high profile-individuals including former first lady Michelle Obama. Terrance’s students were invited to speak and perform on “Good Morning America,” “NBA on TNT,” and during a Milwaukee Bucks Game. Terrance is an exceptional leader and he has brought positive attention to the city and students of Milwaukee while creating an opportunity for his students to be a positive voice for youth today.

AmeriCorps Program of the Year

Project 16:49- Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services

16:49 is the time between school ending one day and starting the next. It is a time in Rock County when many children and young adults are uncertain if they will have enough to eat and a place to sleep. It is also the name of a local nonprofit in Rock County that serves these youth by providing them the services and support they need to remain in school, graduate and become self-sufficient adults. This program was created through a grassroots effort sparked by a local documentary film that shed light on the existence of the unaccompanied homeless youth population and the lack of resources available to them. From September 2016 through December 2017, the AmeriCorps members at Project 16:49 had contact with 754 unaccompanied and homeless youth. Of those youth, 556 accepted significant services such as food, clothing and a safe living environment. Once immediate needs have been addressed, the youth benefit from weekly in-school workshops which increase their knowledge of independent living skills such as basic cooking, financial literacy, safe driving, how to write a resume, interview for a job, find an apartment, and vote. AmeriCorps members distributed 120 backpacks with school supplies, 180 holiday gift bags, and over 700 hygiene bags in addition to recruiting and guiding 339 volunteers who have provided the program with 4,370 hours of service. AmeriCorps members have also held over 100 meetings with schools, churches, businesses and other community service providers to build a cohesive network of support for the at risk youth of their community. The dedication, courage and compassion of the AmeriCorps members and staff at Project 16:49 serves as an inspiring example to us all as they work to provide a home and family to those who have none.

AmeriCorps VISTA Participant of the Year

Trevor Cooper- Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

Trevor Cooper’s work impacts his community and Wisconsin by helping individuals access quality healthcare and prevention services for chronic diseases that disproportionately impact low income communities. He has developed and is sustaining outreach programs that are essential to reach these vulnerable populations. Before serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, Trevor served with the Wisconsin HealthCorps AmeriCorps program where he helped the Wautoma Health Department provide culturally competent health education, completed their community health needs assessment, and assisted them with their national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board. Prior to his promotion to VISTA leader, Trevor served as an AmeriCorps VISTA member with St. Joseph’s Medical Clinic where he took an active role in working with their nursing outreach program. Trevor collaborated with the program to implement blood pressure and blood sugar checks for 8-10 individuals per night at the Salvation Army Community Meal Time. He also trained clinic volunteers in their intake process to collect demographic and health data of their participants. These volunteers donated over 200 service hours in support of the program. Since becoming a VISTA leader,



Trevor has worked to gain monetary and in-kind support for the WAFCC Standards of Excellence and Opiate Reduction VISTA Projects. He secured three host sites, assisted in initiating a relationship with the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality, and collaborated with the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health to create a safety map that includes the locations of free clinics in the state. Trevor is a kind-hearted advocate in his community who truly embodies the VISTA mission. He was recently admitted to the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health where he hopes to become a pediatrician who will be an advocate for children's rights and healthcare for all.

Senior Corps Participant of the Year

Pat Knuth- ERAs Senior Network

Pat Knuth has been a volunteer with ERAs Senior Network since 2001. In addition to previously serving on the Board of Directors for six years, Pat provides program support through data entry and special events assistance, serves as a Pen Pal with local elementary school students, is a member of the Finance Committee, and acts as an Agency Ambassador. As an Agency Ambassador, Pat represents ERAs Senior Network in the community to share their mission, recruit other senior volunteers, and present information about STOP, the agency's program to increase knowledge of frauds and scams. In 2016, ERAs developed STOP Senior Frauds and Scams to help educate seniors and their caregivers about common scams targeting their population. Pat has played an integral role in delivering this information to seniors as a STOP presenter. Pat is knowledgeable about how to recognize and respond to senior frauds and scams, and communicates this information in a comfortable, peer-to-peer manner. Since its inception, the STOP Senior Frauds and Scams program has been presented 43 times to 1,200 people. Pat has presented 19 of those sessions. Pat is extremely dedicated to spreading awareness and has taken on the majority of the workload to ensure that seniors and their caregivers are better equipped to reduce their likelihood of becoming victims of fraud or scams. Pat's heart for service has inspired her to utilize the skills she's cultivated throughout her life to share with and impact others.

Together, Serve Wisconsin and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Wisconsin State Office sponsor the Governor's Service Recognition Event. Serve Wisconsin is Wisconsin's National and Community Service Board. Serve Wisconsin works with AmeriCorps programs throughout the state of Wisconsin to address human, educational, environmental, public safety and homeland security needs. AmeriCorps members are given the opportunity to enrich the lives of the people and communities they serve and their own lives through professional and personal development. Serve Wisconsin is governed by 21-member citizen body appointed by Governor Walker. For more information about Serve Wisconsin or Wisconsin AmeriCorps programs, visit <https://servewisconsin.wi.gov>.

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through programs like AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Volunteer Generation Fund, and more. The Corporation is working to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov/.

