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Governor's Service Recognition Winners Announced

[Madison, Wisconsin] – Six winners will be recognized at the Serve Wisconsin Board meeting at 10:00 A.M., on March 15, Department of Military Affairs, 2400 Wright Street, Madison, WI. Serve Wisconsin board members will be presenting the service recognition awards with Mark Mueller, Vice-Chair introducing the winners. The Governor's Service Recognitions are presented to programs and individuals participating in organizations funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America. This presentation provides an opportunity to recognize organizations and individuals that help solve serious social issues and help strengthen their community through service.

2012 Governor's Service Awards

Governor's Community Service AmeriCorps Participants Recipient

Cory Winters-AmeriCorps Beloit Fresh Start—Community Action, Inc. Rock & Walworth Counties

Governor's AmeriCorps*VISTA Participant Recipient

Amie Arnoldussen-St. Norbert College—Campus Compact

Governor's Senior Corps Participant Recipient

Copper Lake & Lincoln Hills Schools--Foster Grandparent Program

Governor's Service-Learning Recipient

Sharon Johnson -AmeriCorps Spooner School District

Serve Wisconsin Disability Inclusion Recipient

Ally Armstrong-Special Olympics Wisconsin

Marty Stein Friend of National Service Recipient

Jane Grinde-DPI Service Advocate & Leader

Serve Wisconsin, with the support of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) sponsors the Governor's Service Recognitions.

Serve Wisconsin is a 22-member citizen body appointed by the Governor responsible for overseeing



AmeriCorps programs in WI, which address unmet human, environmental, public safety, educational, veteran's opportunities, and economic opportunities. For more information about Serve Wisconsin or funded AmeriCorps programs, visit (www.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 two programs: Senior Corps and AmeriCorps. The Corporation is working to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America. For more information, visit (www.nationalservice.gov).

Following are brief descriptions of each award winner.

Cory Winters will receive the Governor's recognition for AmeriCorps members. Through his efforts and hard work in the AmeriCorps/Beloit Fresh Start Program, Cory was nominated for the Helene D. Stoneman Scholarship and Civic Leadership Program National Award offered through Youth Build USA. Cory was one of 37 candidates to earn the \$2,000.00 scholarship to be used toward his post-secondary education. He devoted his volunteer work to raising awareness about an issue that he was very familiar with; teen homelessness. Cory's story, along with other teens, is told in a documentary about homeless teenagers in Rock County, called "16:49". Whenever the documentary is shown, Cory volunteers his time to speak at these events. He is an inspiration and a role model for youth experiencing homelessness and he encourages homeless youth to come forward, seek help, and tell their story.

Amie Arnoldussen an AmeriCorps*VISTA will receive the Governor's AmeriCorps*VISTA participant award. Amie is a second term member who serves in the Green Bay area through St. Norbert College and The Wisconsin Campus Compact VISTA Program. She is serving to improve pathways to higher education and to close the achievement gap. Amie does this by coordinating mentorship programs for disadvantaged youth in elementary schools. Amie coordinates the Village Project, Connections, and Michels Hall volunteers. Her personal passion is improving multicultural competence. She infuses that passion into her work by training college volunteers to be mentors. Through her dedication to assessing, improving, and expanding the service of St. Norberts College's mentorship programs she is paving the way for Green Bay area students to achieve more in their education. Amie is a true champion of service!

Copper Lake & Lincoln Hills Schools with the Foster Grandparent Program, will receive the Governor's Senior Corps Participant award. Donna Nash will receive the award on behalf of the 20 grandparents who work with at-risk youth, which involves reading tutoring in a reading program or assisting youth who fall behind in regular classes. Grandparents spend time in each living unit playing games, baking, and developing stronger intergenerational relationships. All activities are done on a daily basis 12 months of the year. Each and every one of the Foster Grandparents love the feeling of helping youth, they benefit by observing the changes in their lives and truly enjoy the challenge of working with at-risk youth who so often get left behind. Many of the youth develop a strong bond with their Foster Grandparent, feeling then someone truly cares about them and their future. They benefit both academically and socially thanks to the dedication and caring of these grandparents.

Ally Armstrong, Special Olympics Wisconsin, will receive the Disability Inclusion Service Recognition for helping to build a strong community through her hard work ethic, dedication, understanding, self-motivation, and passion. One of Special Olympics initiatives is the "...Spread the word to end the word"...campaign, known as the "R-Word campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the word "retard". She has created great awareness through presentations and social media, reminding communities how to show respect by changing their language. Ally has further helped to build community through recruitment of 124 volunteers for sporting events, plunges, and Fans in the Stands. Through recruitment of volunteers to cheer as Fans in the Stands, Special Olympic athletes have a more encouraging environment that helps them excel, as they know they have support! Congratulations Ally.

Sharon Johnson, Department of Public Instruction, Service for Learning and Life AmeriCorps Member, will receive the Governor's Service-Learning Recognition for her outstanding work with service-learning projects. Sharon has strengthened her Spooner Area School District by going beyond the realm of her work plan and offering a community service themed Middle School AfterSchool 4-H Club in addition to working on Service Learning Projects connected more directly to school day children's efforts. Sharon's strong organizational skills, sensitivity to the needs of others, networking strengths and humble attitude of service make her stand out among others who have served in AmeriCorps over the years. She pulls all of these gifts to the foreground while tutoring students in reading and math, recruiting and managing community volunteers, coordinating Service Learning Projects, and organizing school family events with a zest for doing what really matters: building strong children who will help their community and state succeed for a better tomorrow.

Jane Grinde, Department of Public Instruction Advocate and Leader, will receive the Marty Stein Friend of National Service Award. Jane lives her personal and professional life with the enthusiastic conviction that all persons benefit from volunteer service, collaboration, and development of community. Throughout her service to National Service and the State of Wisconsin, her co-workers, friends, and family have known her as an untiring advocate of building strong community and enriching one's life through volunteerism. This is exemplified by Jane's firm beliefs that communities benefit from diversity and communities are strongest when ALL citizens are encouraged to contribute their gifts and assets. Jane's leadership in program development and grant implementation through the Learn and Service America program resulted in district-wide adoption of service-learning initiatives, distribution of thousands of mini-grants to local teachers and students, and positioning Wisconsin as one of the premier states in advancing quality service-learning practices. Even in her retirement, Jane peppers her colleagues at DPI with e-mails reminding them of the importance of service AmeriCorps and VISTA members provide throughout the state.

If you would like to attend the presentation please e-mail Gloria Nikolas at gloria.nikolas@wisconsin.gov.

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