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AmeriCorps members celebrate term of service

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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 30, 2001

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AMERICORPS MEMBERS CELEBRATE TERM OF SERVICE

MISSOULA--

Nine AmeriCorps members will be honored for their commitment to community service in an upcoming ceremony at The University of Montana.

Principals and superintendents from western Montana school districts will speak at the ceremony, which begins at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, in the Brantly Hall Presidents Room.

The event recognizes the 2000-2001 class of Montana Technology Corps AmeriCorps members and the completion of their term of service. Members are: Schuyler Baird, Nathan Gordon, Katie Kleinhesselink, Suzin Kratina, Maxine Phillips, Holly Rolfe, Mike Schwartz, Tina Swigert and Melissa Wangler.

MTC AmeriCorps members help bridge the "digital divide" -- the gap between Montanans with and without access to computers and technology training -- in Montana schools and organizations.

The program, developed by the University's Office of Civic Engagement, places UM students in schools and after-school programs to teach basic and advanced computer skills. Those skills range from word-processing, spreadsheets and e-mail to Internet research, Web page design and computer maintenance.

MTC AmeriCorps currently operates in 12 rural Montana communities, including the

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following schools and organizations: **Clinton** School, **Dixon** Elementary, **Charlo** Elementary, **Fort Peck** Head Start, **Hot Springs** Schools, Woodman School in **Lolo**, Lolo School District, Lone Rock Elementary in **Stevensville**, Mission Valley YMCA, Miles Community College R.O.C.K.S. After School Program in **Miles City**, Two Eagle River School in **Pablo**, the University of Montana-Western in **Dillon** and the Boys and Girls Club of Missoula County.

Members also serve with WORD Family Resource Centers in **Missoula** and with the Greater Missoula Family YMCA-Pathways project.

The national AmeriCorps program engages more than 40,000 citizens a year in results-driven service sponsored by local and national nonprofit organizations. In return, AmeriCorps members earn education awards to help pay for college or pay back student loans. AmeriCorps members help communities meet challenges in education, public safety, human needs and the environment.

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