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CAMPUS COMPACT CEREMONY SET FOR MAY 20 IN HELENA

MISSOULA—

The Montana Campus Compact (MTCC), a statewide higher education organization that supports campus-based public service, will hold its annual Ceremony for Civic Engagement Monday, May 20, in Helena.

The 3 p.m. event will be held in the Capitol Rotunda at the Montana Capitol Building. The public is welcome, and a reception will follow the formal ceremony.

The Ceremony for Civic Engagement honors college students from around the state who have successfully completed their terms of service in the MTCC Montana Campus Corps and Volunteers In Service to America (VISTA) -- both AmeriCorps-affiliate programs. MTCC’s faculty fellows, student fellows and community partners also will be honored.

Additionally, three exceptional students will receive $500 scholarships for their commitment to civic engagement.

Superintendent Linda McCulloch will keynote the event. Jane Karas, president of Flathead Valley Community College, will recognize all honorees on behalf of the MTCC Board of Directors.

Throughout the year, dedicated college students and citizens pledged to “get things
done” as AmeriCorps members. They tutored in schools, coordinated environmental cleanup efforts, structured out-of-school activities for youth, collected food for the hungry and worked to meet a variety of educational, environmental and public-safety needs in Montana communities.

“These incredible student volunteers have created important connections between colleges and their local neighborhoods through hard work and dedication,” said Dean McGovern, MTCC executive director. “These students have answered the call to engage with their communities and demonstrate their civic responsibilities.”

The Montana Campus Corps and VISTA graduates are among 40,000 AmeriCorps members in more than 500 different programs nationwide. After completing a term of service, members receive an Education Award to help pay future college tuition or an existing college loan.

The faculty and student fellowship programs have supported seven faculty members and seven students this year who have successfully created and implemented service-learning components into their academic work. These people have worked to connect higher education with the larger society, helping instill an ethic of service into the hearts and minds of Montanans.

Student Community Service Scholarships will be awarded to Doyle Beavers of Salish Kootenai College, Tamara Ward of The University of Montana-Western and Camila Hoff of UM-Missoula. The scholarships were awarded based on a demonstrated commitment to service, leaving a lasting legacy in their communities, perseverance through challenges and making a significant impact or change in a social issue or community concern.
MTCC is a nonprofit coalition of 16 college presidents and chancellors committed to helping students develop the values and skills of citizenship through civic engagement and participation in public service. It is the only statewide higher education organization whose primary purpose is to support campus-based public service. By creating a supportive environment for involvement in community public service, these academic leaders believe their institutions can prepare the next generation of informed, active, committed citizen leaders for Montana.