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### UM named to president's community service honor roll

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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July 1, 2009

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**UM NAMED TO PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL**

**MISSOULA —**

The University of Montana joins a prestigious group of schools across the nation commended for community service and involvement this year.

The Corporation for National and Community Service awarded UM a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

Since its launch in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can receive for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement.

"The University of Montana takes considerable pride in the civic engagement of its students," said President George Dennison. "Graduates of the University have developed the 'habits of the heart' that make a difference for the quality of life in their communities when they leave us. We think that a distinctive attribute of a UM education."

Andrea Vernon, director of UM's Office for Civic Engagement, reported that UM students in service learning courses volunteered for more than 30,500 hours in the Missoula community during the 2007-08 academic year. Students logged 5,000 extra-curricular

volunteer hours and participated in more than 34,000 service hours through the AmeriCorps program, which helps students with university attendance costs.

Vernon estimated that student service within the community had an economic impact of nearly \$875,000, considering the hourly amount attached to a volunteer hour in Montana.

The corporation compiles the honor roll in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

The corporation recognized 635 schools on the honor roll this year, and six were given Presidential Awards. A full list is available at <http://www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll>.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that aims to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. More information is online at <http://www.nationalservice.gov>.

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