



ACTUAL PROGRAM AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

7:30 AM	Registration Opens	Plaza Ballroom Lobby
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Commission Investment Funds Meeting <i>Adrienne DiTommaso, Research Analyst, CNCS</i> <i>Carla Ganiel, Senior Program and Project Specialist, CNCS</i> <p>This pre-conference workshop is intended to orient commission staff and their consultants working in the Commission Investment Funds (CIF) Priority Performance Area 3 to the grant and its associated activities and requirements. Through lecture, guest speakers, and a group activity, participants will learn about the CNCS philosophy and approach to evaluation capacity building; understand requirements and expectations of the CIF grant; become oriented to resources and lessons learned from ongoing evaluation capacity building efforts; and understand how to leverage planned CNCS technical assistance efforts. Participants will have an opportunity for networking, collaboration, and activity planning.</p> <p>Target Audience: State Service Commissions working in Priority Performance Area 3 (performance measurement and evaluation) with the Commission Investment Funds</p>	Juniper
9:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Tribal Grantee Meeting <i>Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps State and National, CNCS</i> <i>Andrea Bedenbaugh, Program Officer, CNCS</i> <i>Rose David, Program Officer, CNCS</i> <i>Jennifer Kerner, Program Officer, CNCS</i> <i>Charndrea Leonard, Senior Program Officer, CNCS</i> <i>Shari Orr, Program Officer, CNCS</i> <i>Arminda Pappas, Program Officer, CNCS</i> <i>Jamie Welch, Program Officer, CNCS</i> <p>As AmeriCorps Indian Tribal grantees, it is important to establish connections with other programs serving Native communities and to strengthen the working relationship with CNCS and AmeriCorps State and National Program Officers. This session will provide an opportunity for the tribal grantees to network with each other and recognize contributions made by programs and the investments made by CNCS. Additionally, grantees will have the opportunity to meet with AmeriCorps Program Officers and CNCS leadership.</p> <p>Target Audience: Tribal program and planning grantees funded in 2016-2017</p>	Arbors



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

7:30 AM	Registration Opens	Plaza Ballroom Lobby
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<p>America’s Service Commissions Membership Assembly</p> <p><i>Kaira Esgate, Chief Executive Officer, America’s Service Commissions</i> <i>Rachel Manuel Bruns, Deputy Director, America’s Service Commissions</i></p> <p>This is the annual convening of the membership of America’s Service Commissions.</p> <p>Target Audience: State Service Commission directors and staff</p>	Juniper
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	<p>Tribal Affinity Group Meeting</p> <p><i>Rose David, Program Officer, CNCS</i> <i>Charndrea Leonard, Senior Program Officer, CNCS</i></p> <p>The Tribal Affinity Group Meeting is an opportunity for all tribal planning and program grantees to network and share ideas and best practices about AmeriCorps program development, recruitment, and program management.</p> <p>Target Audience: Tribal program and planning grantees funded in 2016-2017</p>	Arbors
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	<p>Tribal Program and Commission Meet and Greet</p> <p><i>Rose David, Program Officer, CNCS</i> <i>Charndrea Leonard, Senior Program Officer, CNCS</i></p> <p>All Tribal program and Commission Staff are invited to attend to network and exchange information on programs and resources available across states to support tribal programs and AmeriCorps members.</p> <p>Target Audience: Directors and staff of tribal programs and state commission staff</p>	Arbors
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch (on your own)	
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	<p>Symposium Kick-off</p> <p><i>Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps State and National, CNCS</i> <i>Wendy Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, CNCS</i></p> <p>Wendy Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, and Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps State and National, will launch the 2016 AmeriCorps State and National Symposium. Attendees will share 2015-2016 highlights and learn about new initiatives in development at CNCS.</p>	Plaza Ballroom



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM Break

WORKSHOP SESSION 1

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM **Grants Compliance: Got Grant. Now What?** Juniper

Andrea House, Grants Management Specialist, CNCS
Bonnie Janicki, Senior Grants Officer, CNCS
Barbara Poindexter Webb, Grants Management Specialist, CNCS

This session will help fiscal and program staff understand the basic concepts and responsibilities of managing CNCS grants. Presenters will provide an overview of the uniform guidance, CNCS regulations and award terms and conditions, key accounting system requirements, written policies and procedures, internal controls, budgets, match, timesheets, budget controls, financial reporting, documentation, audits, and other related financial requirements.

Target Audience: State Service Commission and program staff with less than five years of experience with AmeriCorps State and National grant management

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM **Guiding Subgrantees in Performance Measurement** Arbors

Shari Orr, Program Officer, CNCS
Jamie Welch, Program Officer, CNCS

This session will focus on the unique perspective of State Service Commissions and how they can best support their subgrantees in creating high quality performance measures. From outreach to application review and throughout the program year, commissions have a unique role in managing and strengthening subgrantee performance measures. This workshop is a hands-on, interactive session that will take an in-depth look at performance measures across the CNCS focus areas. The session will also introduce new performance measurement training and review tools specifically for commission staff.

Target Audience: State Service Commission staff

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM **Office of Inspector General: Safeguarding Federal Funds** Beech A&B

Catherine Chunn, Audit Manager, Office of Inspector General, CNCS
Special Agent Jessica Nelson, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Office of Inspector General, CNCS

As AmeriCorps grantees, commissions and programs are responsible for all aspects of grant management – and for being good stewards of public resources. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is a key partner in the safeguarding of the public trust. The OIG provides agency oversight to ensure adequate internal controls are in place to safeguard program and taxpayer dollars, executes an annual audit plan, and conducts investigations of AmeriCorps programs and personnel.



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This session will provide guidance on important elements of grant oversight. Presenters will discuss indicators of fraud, current audit findings, and provide instructions on improving grantee accountability. This session will also help AmeriCorps State and National grantees identify fraud indicators; understand common investigative processes; recognize key strategies for deterring fraud, waste, and abuse; and understand the Whistleblower Protection Act.

Target Audience: All

2:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Research and Evaluation: What is data analytics anyway?

Aspen

Ben Ballerstein, *MPS, Data and Analytics Officer, CNCS*

Joseph Breems, *Policy Analyst, CNCS*

Kate Pisano, *Director of AmeriCorps Programs, Serve Rhode Island*

Data analytics is simply what you do to turn data into useful information. This session will provide a better understanding of what data analytics is and how AmeriCorps State and National grantees may use it in their organizations. Participants will hear from colleagues about simple ways they are using data analytics, and examine practical considerations any organization should have to be successful in doing so. Participants will also discuss how data analytics can fit into broader research and evaluation activities. The session will close with office hours with CNCS Office of Research and Evaluation staff to discuss data analytics and other evaluation issues in more detail.

Target Audience: This session will be most useful for new commission and program staff.

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

AmeriCorps National Programs Meeting

Plaza Ballroom

Bill Basl, *Director of AmeriCorps State and National, CNCS*

This is optional meeting with the Director of AmeriCorps State and National. This session will consist of brief remarks from the Director and Q&A with all participants. All planning grant, Education Award Programs, national programs, and multi-state program directors and staff are invited.

Target Audience: National and multi-state program directors and staff

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Commission Executive Director Issue Forum

Walnut A&B

Peter Gaumont, *Chief, Recovery Branch at Office of National Drug Control Policy, White House*

Catherine Hartnett, *Executive Director, National Youth Recovery Foundation*

Ginna Holmes, *Executive Director, Michigan Community Service Commission*

Lieutenant Jorielle Houston, PhD, *Director, Systems Development Division, Center for Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*

Heather McDonald, *Program Officer, CNCS*



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Ramona Rodriguez-Washington, Program Director, AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program at Wayne State University

Sandy Scott, Senior Advisor to the CEO and State Commission Liason, CNCS

This is an advanced session designed for State Service Commission Executive Directors in their role as grant-makers. The session will focus on two critical issues facing communities across the country: civil unrest and the breakdown of trust between police and community members, and the growing prescription drug and opioid abuse crisis. Participants will hear from current AmeriCorps State program directors focused on these issues, and from the state commissions that fund them. Through presentations and peer exchange, commission directors will learn specific steps they can take to cultivate new programs to address these challenges which are priorities in the FY 2017 AmeriCorps grant competition.

Target Audience: State Service Commission directors

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Break

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

CNCS Updates

Plaza Ballroom

Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps State and National, CNCS

Dana Bourne, Chief Grants Officer, CNCS

Kelly DeGraff, Senior Advisor and Director of CNCS Disaster Services Unit, CNCS

Lori Giblin, Chief Risk Officer, CNCS

Vincent (Tony) LePore, Director of IT Policy and Planning, CNCS

Ted Miller, Director of External Affairs, CNCS

Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi, Deputy Director of AmeriCorps State and National, CNCS

During this session, CNCS staff will provide updates on new initiatives, organizational developments, and guidance for AmeriCorps State and National grantees.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

7:30 AM	Registration Opens	Plaza Ballroom Lobby
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Business Meeting: What's the plan? First Steps to Develop Standard Operating Procedures <i>Katrina French, Special Initiatives Program Officer, CNCS</i> <p>When disaster strikes, survivors often turn to their State Service Commissions to support volunteer and donations management, among other services. A disaster Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will help commissions meet their disaster response and recovery commitments as well as ensure their “blue skies work” continues with as little interruption as possible. During this session, commissions and subject matter experts will identify three top priority areas of the SOP, and in small groups, begin drafting their initial SOPs. These draft SOPs will continue to be refined over the next few months with a draft in place prior to the 2017 Disaster Services Commission Convening.</p> <p>Target Audience: State Service Commission directors and staff</p>	Arbors
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Business Meeting: America's Service Commissions Mentor Program <i>Rachel Bruns, Deputy Director, America's Service Commissions</i> <p>This is a meeting of State Service Commission staff who are participating in the America's Service Commissions Mentor Program in 2016.</p> <p>Target Audience: State Service Commission staff</p>	Juniper
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Break	
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Morning Plenary: New Opportunities for National Service in Education <i>John Gomperts, President and CEO, America's Promise Alliance</i> <i>Heather Rieman, Senior Advisor for Education Initiatives, CNCS</i> <i>Mary Kingston Roche, Director of Public Policy, Coalition for Community Schools</i> <i>Debbie Schuffenhauer, Executive Director, Serve Washington</i> <i>Emma Vadehra, Chief of Staff, US Secretary of Education</i> <p>In this plenary, CNCS staff will lead a panel discussion on a variety of opportunities for service programs in the education field, including the implications of current policy, regulatory, and legislative initiatives.</p>	Plaza Ballroom
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Break	



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

WORKSHOP SESSION 2

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Grants Compliance: Financial Self-Check

Juniper

Thea E. Becton, *Grants Management Specialist, CNCS*
 Lisa Bishop, *Grants Management Specialist, CNCS*
 Nicole Hawkins, *Grants Management Specialist, CNCS*

What are the most effective methods to monitor grant-related financial management systems? This session will help AmeriCorps State and National grantees conduct self and/or subawardee financial monitoring. Participants will learn how to use a risk-based monitoring process to prevent, detect, and enforce program requirements.

Target Audience: All

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

AmeriCorps Program Development: Lessons Learned - What I Wish I Knew in Year 1

Beech A&B

Andrea Bedenbaugh, *Program Officer, CNCS*
 Beth Binkley, *Program Officer, CNCS*
 Gail Boe, *Director of Communities of Excellence, Osage Nation Ta-Wa AmeriCorps*
 Maureen K. Eccleston, *Assistant Director, PennSERVE: The Governor's Office of Citizen Service*
 Jennifer Kerner, *Program Officer, CNCS*
 Stacey Rapp, *Program Director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)*
 David Steefel-Moore, *National AmeriCorps Director, Match Education*

This session will provide an opportunity to learn about the successes and challenges of managing an AmeriCorps program from a variety of AmeriCorps program and commission leaders. It will include a panel discussion of common problems in the first year of an AmeriCorps program's operation and recommendations for navigating the challenges to build strong new AmeriCorps programs.

Target Audience: State Service Commission and program grantee staff with less than three years of experience with AmeriCorps State and National grant management

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Research and Evaluation: Grantee Panel - Using Evaluation Results to Learn and Improve

Aspen

Alyson Augustin, *Vice President, Government Relations, City Year*
 Stephanie Biegler, *Chief Program Officer, Child Abuse Prevention Center*
 Adrienne DiTommaso, *Research Analyst, CNCS*
 Carla Ganiel, *Senior Program and Project Specialist, CNCS*
 Amy Hetrick, *Senior Program Officer, CNCS*
 Joel Krogstad, *AmeriCorps Program Director, Saint Paul Neighborhood Network*
 Peter Rumsey, Jr., *Director, National Service, Habitat for Humanity International*



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

In this session, participants will learn about the findings from high quality AmeriCorps State and National evaluations conducted by small and large grantees in a variety of focus areas. Panelists will share how AmeriCorps programs delivering housing, child abuse prevention, employment, and education interventions are using evaluation results to improve their programs and expand the impact in their communities.

Target Audience: All

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Ideation AmeriCorps: Innovation in National Service

Arbors

Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps State and National, CNCS
Shari Orr, Program Officer, CNCS

Ideation AmeriCorps is a series of workshops and interactive discussions led by Bill Basl, the Director of AmeriCorps State and National. The session will share the results of past Ideation events, including specific, innovative ideas for using national service programs to address today's national and local challenges. Participants will brainstorm how innovation can become a part of daily national service work and share best practices from their own organizations. This session is open to all attendees at the Symposium.

Target Audience: All

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

National Service Criminal History Checks 101

Walnut A&B

Amanda Edwards, Grants Management Intern, CNCS
Erica Rice, Team Lead, CNCS

This session will cover the three Ds of National Service Criminal History Checks: (1) Do the right checks; (2) Do them on time; and (3) Document, document, document!

Target Audience: State Service Commission and program staff with less than five years of experience with AmeriCorps State and National grant management

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Luncheon Plenary and Harkin AmeriCorps Awards Presentation

Plaza Ballroom

Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps State and National, CNCS
Mary Bruce, Co-Executive Director, AmeriCorps Alums
Jessica Graham, Community Relations Manager, Cisco Systems
Wendy Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, CNCS
Tyler Wright, Senior Manager of Military Initiatives, Points of Light

During this luncheon plenary, CNCS leadership will present the 2016 Harkin Excellence in AmeriCorps Programming and Service Awards.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Break

WORKSHOP SESSION 3

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Grants Compliance: Budget Management

Juniper

Amanda Edwards, *Grants Management Intern, CNCS*

Tracey Seabolt, *Grants Management Specialist, CNCS*

A well-developed budget can be a roadmap to help an organization achieve its programmatic and financial objectives. In this session, participants will review the components of a compliant and competitive budget, develop budget strategies and best practices to meet program requirements, and discuss the many factors influencing post-award budget management.

Target Audience: State Service Commission and program staff with less than five years of experience with AmeriCorps State and National grant management

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

A Tale of Three Floods: Disaster Case Studies from
 South Carolina, Missouri, and West Virginia

Walnut A&B

Heather Foster, *Executive Director, Volunteer West Virginia*

Brent Kossick, *Director, Service Commission/United Way Association of South Carolina*

Jennifer Murphy, *Operations Program Officer, CNCS*

Don Stamper, *Executive Director, Missouri Community Service Commission*

Three states each experienced historic flooding that affected multiple communities. In these situations, the State Service Commissions in South Carolina, Missouri, and West Virginia provided critical support to their states' disaster responses using very different strategies. This session will provide an overview of each commission's response and recovery efforts and discuss preparation steps that may have been taken to strengthen the disaster response ahead of time. The session will also provide attendees the opportunity to discuss these strategies and how they might be useful for other commissions and states.

Target Audience: State Service Commission directors and staff

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Continuity Planning 101: Ten Elements of Program Continuity

Arbors

Adrienne Andrews, *Executive Director, Notre Dame Mission Volunteers*

Michael Ashmore, *Grant Programs Officer, Maine Commission for Community Service*

Deirdre Gonsalves, *Program Officer, CNCS*

Olga Prokhorova, *Program Officer, CNCS*



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Staff turnover is one of the most common challenges in the national service field. It affects operations at all levels, from site supervision to program leadership. Ensuring that programs are well prepared to deal with planned and unplanned transitions is essential to the success of AmeriCorps. This session will highlight several important considerations in planning for program continuity, such as timelines, financial obligations, record-keeping, member support, technology, and relationship management.

Target Audience: All

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

State of the Evidence: Education and National Service

Aspen

Joseph Breems, *Policy Analyst, CNCS*

Adrienne DiTommaso, *Research Analyst, CNCS*

Carla Ganiel, *Senior Program and Project Specialist, CNCS*

Heather Rieman, *Senior Advisor for Education Initiatives, CNCS*

This workshop will review the body of evidence generated by research and program evaluations on education programs previously or currently supported by CNCS. Studies included in the presentation have achieved strong levels of evidence. Participants will learn about promising education interventions and contextual factors for success. An interactive portion of the workshop will engage participants in identifying knowledge gaps and important guidelines for practitioners wishing to implement successful models. Commissions, tribal programs, education grantees, and those interested in evidence-based programming would benefit from attending this session.

Target Audience: State Service Commission and program staff with less than five years of experience with AmeriCorps State and National grant management

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Empowering Veterans Through National Service

Beech A&B

Bill Basl, *Director of AmeriCorps State and National, CNCS*

Phillip Carter, *Senior Fellow, Center for New American Security*

Derek Destin, *Veteran AmeriCorps Member*

Chris Ford, *Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Veteran Serving Organizations*

Mike Michaud, *Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training*

Debbie Schuffenhauer, *Executive Director, Serve Washington*

Aaron Stanton, *VetsWork Program Director, Mt. Adams Institute*

This session will provide an opportunity to learn about a variety of approaches to engaging veterans in national service programs. Speakers representing AmeriCorps members, state commissions, organizations that serve veterans, and national nonprofits will share their experiences and lessons learned. This session will also include time for Q&A with the speakers.

Target Audience: All



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Break

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

AmeriCorps State Commission Meeting

Plaza Ballroom

Bill Basl, *Director of AmeriCorps State and National, CNCS*

This is optional meeting with the Director of AmeriCorps State and National. Commission staff are invited to discuss ways to maximize AmeriCorps resources in all states. This session will also include time for Q&A with the director.

Target Audience: State Service Commission directors and staff



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

7:30 AM Registration Opens Plaza Ballroom Lobby

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM School Turnaround Grantee Meeting Arbors

Amy Hetrick, Senior Program Officer, CNCS

This session will include a facilitated discussion with 2016-2017 School Turnaround AmeriCorps commission and program grantees on topics of interest, including key lessons learned from the School Turnaround AmeriCorps National Evaluation.

Target Audience: School Turnaround AmeriCorps grantees

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Break

WORKSHOP SESSION 4

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Updates from the Chief Grants Officer Juniper

Dana Bourne, Chief Grants Officer, CNCS

Join the Chief Grants Officer for the latest news in grants administration and financial management, including updates on National Service Criminal History Checks, federal debt and debt delinquencies, the Government Accountability Office audit of CNCS, and changes in overtime rules. Participants will also review the process for self-checking the System for Award Management (SAM) in order to avoid delays in the federal grant award process. This session will include a significant amount of time for Q&A with CNCS staff and audience discussion.

Target Audience: All

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Continuity Planning 201: Developing Transition Tools and Resources Arbors

Oksana Jensen, Program Officer, CNCS
Margaret Mattinson, Program Officer, CNCS
Arminda Pappas, Program Officer, CNCS
Tova Pertman, Program Officer, CNCS

This session is designed for participants who have attended previous continuity planning sessions, and it will build on the AmeriCorps Program Continuity Planning 101: Ten Elements of Program Continuity session provided on September 22. This will be a highly interactive workshop, focused on analyzing case studies and developing transition tools to take back to local programs and organizations. Participants will explore how to successfully deal with staff transitions at various levels to help ensure smooth and continuous program operations.

Target Audience: All



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Online Resources for AmeriCorps State and National Grantees <i>Shar'ron Tendai, Program Support Specialist, CNCS</i> <p>This session is a live demonstration of the National Service Knowledge Network and the new Learning Management System (LMS). The presenter will highlight training resources available to AmeriCorps State and National grantees including how to access online courses via the LMS. This session will be most useful for program and commission staff who provide direct training and technical assistance to sites, members, and/or subgrantees on a regular basis.</p> <p>Target Audience: State Service Commission and program staff with less than five years of experience with AmeriCorps State and National grant management</p>	Walnut A&B
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Research and Evaluation: Laying the Groundwork Before Your First Evaluation <i>Carla Ganiel, Senior Program and Project Specialist, CNCS</i> <i>Beth Slater, Research Analyst, CNCS</i> <p>Evaluation success requires careful planning in the earliest stages of program design and implementation. In this session, participants will learn five critical activities to undertake in the first three years of AmeriCorps funding to lay the groundwork for future evaluations. They will also discuss how to achieve key milestones in program design, development of data collection and performance measurement systems, staff capacity, planning, and learning.</p> <p>Target Audience: State Service Commission and program staff with less than five years of experience with AmeriCorps State and National grant management</p>	Aspen
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Reasonable Accommodations and Tips for Running an Inclusive Service Program <i>Anne Hirsh, Co-Director, Job Accommodation Network</i> <p>AmeriCorps grantees, commissions, and programs employ and work with employers who hire qualified people with disabilities. The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues. This session will provide guidance on important elements of using JAN services, the employment title of the Americans With Disabilities Act and its Amendments, the Rehab Act Section 504, addressing issues programs/grantees face with disability inclusion, and implementing effective reasonable accommodation.</p> <p>Target Audience: State Service Commission and program staff with less than three years of experience with AmeriCorps grant management</p>	Beech A&B

September 21 – 23, 2016

AmeriCorps State and National Symposium

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel – Alexandria, VA



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Transition Break

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM

Closing Plenary and Symposium Wrap-up

Plaza Ballroom

Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps State and National, CNCS
Wendy Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, CNCS

During this session, CNCS staff will share highlights and important takeaways of the 2016 Symposium.

11:30 AM

Adjourn



THE EXCELLENCE IN AMERICORPS PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE AWARDS

PRESENTED IN HONOR OF SENATOR THOMAS R. HARKIN

The Excellence in AmeriCorps Awards will be presented in honor of Iowa's Senator Thomas R. Harkin, a longtime and tireless advocate for national service. During his 40 years of service as a member of the United States House of Representatives (1975–1985) and Senate (1985–2015), Senator Harkin exemplified the highest level of dedication to public service and to our nation.

Senator Harkin retired in 2015 after a long and distinguished career.

The 2016 Award Recipients:

Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation: AmeriCorps VISTA Sponsor

Julie Baker Finck, PhD, President, Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation
Houston, Texas

Our City Forest

Rhonda Berry, Founder and Executive Director, Our City Forest
San José, California

Christopher Brown

AmeriCorps Member, Washington Vet Corps
Served with Western Washington University
Bellingham, Washington

James Marvin Taylor, IV

AmeriCorps Member, Public Allies Chicago
Served with Chicago Public Schools
Chicago, Illinois



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

A

Alyson Augustin is the Vice President of Government Relations at City Year, Inc. She has worked with City Year since 1996. In this role, Alyson oversees \$33 million in AmeriCorps grants annually to support City Year's service. The grants provide approximately 25% of City Year's annual revenue and fund 2,800 City Year AmeriCorps members, who serve in high-need urban public schools in 26 US cities. Alyson directs City Year's grant management relationships with CNCS, and partners with City Year's executive staff to manage relationships State Service Commissions across the country. With a team of five staff, Alyson partners with City Year's executive staff across the country to procure, manage, audit and report on all grant activities as well as oversee AmeriCorps training and compliance functions, state and federal regulations, and overlap with local school district provisions. Before joining City Year, Alyson worked in nonprofit regional theater for 15 years as a Production Stage Manager in New York City, Cambridge, and Washington DC. She has a BA from Princeton University.

Adrienne Andrews is the Executive Director of Notre Dame Mission Volunteers-AmeriCorps (NDA); she has been with the organization since 2005. In this new role, Adrienne works with NDA staff and 495 AmeriCorps members across the country who are building on the foundation and mission of education of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Before becoming Executive Director, Adrienne delved into every facet of the organization, starting as an NDA member in Watsonville, California before joining the organization as Administrative Assistant, then CFO and Associate Director. Adrienne has a BA in sociology from Case Western Reserve University and a certificate from Duke Divinity School's Foundations of Christian Leadership Program.

B

Michael Ashmore has been Grant Programs Officer for the Maine Commission for Community Service since early 2010. In this role, Michael oversees the Maine portfolio of AmeriCorps State grants, among other duties. Before joining the commission, Michael directed a nonprofit providing training to schools and agencies that helped youth with disabilities transition from school to adult life. He was also a teacher and school district administrator for almost 20 years and brings experience guiding volunteers as the director and coordinator of volunteers for the NAMES Project-Maine AIDS Memorial Quilt. Michael has a BA in English and a master's degree in education.

Ben Ballerstein is a Data and Analytics Team Leader with the Chief of Program Operations Immediate Office at CNCS. His responsibilities include coordinating program responses to congressional and executive data calls, authoring internal and external reports, and building analytic systems to improve CNCS program efficiency and compliance. Ben has previously worked on pediatric health research and environmental policy, and he served three years in AmeriCorps.

Bill Basl is the Director of AmeriCorps State and National at CNCS. Bill became the Director of AmeriCorps following an 18-year tenure as the Executive Director of the Washington Commission for National and Community Service. Bill began his national service career as a VISTA volunteer in 1970-1971, and founded the first state-wide youth service initiative in the nation. He is a past chair and board member of the American Association of State Service Commissions and was selected by the White House as a Champion of Change Service Innovator in June 2011.



Thea Becton is a Grants Officer in the CNCS Office of Grants Management. Prior to taking on the Grants Officer role, Thea was an Assistant Program Director at the Atlantic Region Campus of NCCC. With NCCC, she helped sponsoring agencies in the Atlantic region design NCCC member projects that developed member leadership skills and met local community needs. Thea also supported the national deployment of FEMA Corps members as the first FEMA Corps Assistant Program Director at the Atlantic Region campus.

Andrea Bedenbaugh joined CNCS as a Program Officer in October 2015. Andrea worked in the nonprofit arena for over 15 years, and most of those years she provided capacity building services in the area of health and human services to federally-funded nonprofits across the United States. Andrea previously managed the grant-making and grant management processes for the United Way of Central Maryland. Andrea has an MBA from the University of Maryland University College and resides in Maryland with her husband and teen-aged son.

Stephanie Biegler is Chief Program Officer at the Child Abuse Prevention Center. For 40 years, the Center has been dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect with a vision that all children grow up safe and healthy in nurturing families and communities. Since 1994, national service has been critical to the Center's mission. For nearly 20 years, Stephanie has developed, managed, and evaluated the Center's evidence-based home visitation, family resource center, youth development, and child abuse prevention programs. Each year, over 300 members serve throughout California in one of the Center's AmeriCorps programs.

Beth Binkley joined CNCS as an AmeriCorps State and National Program Officer in March 2013. In this role, she oversees a diverse portfolio of commission and program grantees and contributes to a variety of critical projects and teams at CNCS. In addition to a variety of professional experiences, Beth has served as State AmeriCorps Director for the South Carolina Commission for National and Community Service and Service Director for City Year Columbia.

Lisa Bishop is a Grants Officer with the CNCS Office of Grants Management. Lisa previously served as a Director in the Baltimore City Public Schools Office of Human Capital and as Chief of Staff at the Maryland State Department of Education. She began her career as an AmeriCorps VISTA. After her VISTA service, Lisa served as a staff member and later a commissioner with the Maryland Commission on Service and Volunteerism. She has an MBA from Loyola University-Maryland and a bachelor's degree in public administration from James Madison University.

Gail Boe is the Director of Communities of Excellence with Osage Nation Ta-Wa AmeriCorps. She has been involved with community activism for over 35 years and worked for the Osage Nation for over 14 years. Gail began her career as a faculty and staff instructor on literacy and health issues. Under her direction, an Osage Tribal VISTA program was developed to address early learning and literacy. Today, Gail focuses on combating chronic disease through health education, tobacco prevention, community gardening, and alternative treatment, and leads an AmeriCorps program that addresses the causes of chronic disease within the Osage community. For the last year and a half, she has led one of the 10 Operation AmeriCorps programs funded by CNCS. Gail is also a member of the Oklahoma Strategic Tribal Alliance on Health, which includes tribes across Oklahoma.

Dana Bourne joined CNCS in May 2015 as the Chief Grants Officer. In this role, he is responsible for the awarding, financial management, and oversight of all CNCS grants. Prior to joining CNCS, Dana was the Regional Administrator for the US Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service for the Boston-New York Region, and Deputy Director of Grant Operations with the Grant Programs Directorate at the US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency. Prior to his career in the federal government, Dana received a JD from the New England School of Law and an MSW from Ohio State University. Dana also served on active duty in the US Air Force.



Joseph (Joey) Breems is a Policy Analyst in the CNCS Office of Research and Evaluation. Joseph's portfolio includes a variety of studies and projects, and he oversees evidence dissemination and use efforts. Joseph received a master's degree in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University. He previously spent five years working the nonprofit sector focusing on issues including public health, diversity and inclusion, and educational equity. Joseph is also a proud AmeriCorps alumnus, having served with Public Allies Pittsburgh for two years.

Mary Bruce is Co-executive Director of AmeriCorps Alums. Mary is an AmeriCorps alumna (The Latin American Youth Center, 1999-2000) and a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Morocco, 2004-2006). She has spent her career supporting the scale and impact of the nonprofit sector, including through work with America's Promise Alliance, the College Board, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Grad Nation campaign, and MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership. She sits on the national advisory council of New Politics, an organization that gives Americans who have served the tools and guidance to win elections and become the transformational leaders America needs. Mary has an MPA in domestic policy from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and a BA in poverty studies from the University of Virginia.

C

Phillip Carter is Senior Fellow, Counsel, and Director of the Military, Veterans, and Society Program at the Center for New American Security. His research focuses on issues facing veterans and military personnel, force structure and readiness issues, and civil-military relations. Phillip began his career as an Army officer, serving for several years in the active and reserve components as a military police and civil affairs officer. He deployed to Iraq in 2005-2006, where he worked closely with the State Department's Provincial Reconstruction Team. After coming home, Phillip became increasingly involved in veterans and national security policy issues. He served as the lead on the Obama campaign's veterans policy committee in 2007, and continued to serve under President Obama as a political appointee responsible for detainee policy issues. In addition to his military and government experience, Phillip has worked in the private sector as an attorney and business leader. He currently serves on the Reserve Forces Policy Board, teaches as an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University, and serves on the editorial board of the Journal for National Security Law & Policy. A native of Southern California, Philip attended college and law school at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Catherine (Cat) M. Chunn returned to the CNCS Office of Inspector General (OIG) as an Audit Manager earlier this year, overseeing internal and contracted audit teams who review CNCS operations, programs, and grantees. Cat was previously employed as an Audit Manager at the OIG for the General Services Administration. She began her federal career at the CNCS OIG as an Auditor in 2010. Prior to her federal service, Cat worked in public accounting for two national CPA firms. In this role, she performed financial statement audits specializing in nonprofit organizations within the Washington DC area. Cat received a bachelor's degree in accounting and information technology from Virginia Tech in 2006.



D

Rose David joined CNCS as a Program Officer in February 2014. Rose was previously a Program Manager and TTA Provider serving American Indian and Alaskan Native communities through diverse federal contracts, including the Native American Center for Excellence, the DOD Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program, the Indian Health Service Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative, the DOJ Radiation Exposure and Compensation Act Outreach Program, and the EPA's National Tribal Caucus Analytical Support Project. Rose is from Chimnissing First Nation in Ontario, Canada.

Kelly DeGraff is the Senior Advisor and Director of the CNCS Disaster Services Unit. Kelly's focus is on building the capacity of nonprofit organizations, adding value to what already exists in communities, and aiding community resiliency. Additionally, Kelly is charged with bringing innovation and efficiencies to the way in which national service executes work within disaster services. In August 2012, under Kelly's stewardship, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CNCS launched FEMA Corps, and she continues to foster partnerships that have a focus on expanding national service. Kelly is an alumna of AmeriCorps Classes I and II.

Derek Destin is a US Army veteran who had served in Afghanistan and Iraq. Derek was homeless and receiving services from The Veterans Administration and Palmetto Warrior Connection when he was introduced to The Sustainability Institute's (TSI) Conservation Corps – Veterans Initiative. He serves on a team of fellow veterans making income-qualified homes in the community more energy efficient. In recognition of his service and personal achievements, Derek was chosen as the 2016 Lanneau Siegling AmeriCorps Member of the Year by the South Carolina Commission on National and Community Service.

Adrienne DiTommaso is a Research Analyst in the CNCS Office of Research and Evaluation. In this role, she supports the agency's ongoing research and reporting on national service and civic engagement. She oversees a portfolio of research projects and program evaluations, and delivers evaluation training and technical assistance. Adrienne has an MPA from Indiana University and a BA from the University of Miami.

E

Maureen K. Eccleston is the Assistant Director of PennSERVE, the Pennsylvania State Service Commission. A self-described national service lifer, Maureen started her AmeriCorps journey in 1999 with the sixth class of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps. Since then, she has woven her way through national service; she's served or worked with NCCC, VISTA, AmeriCorps State and National, and Learn and Serve. Maureen also has had the unique opportunity to serve with two state commissions, Maryland and now PennSERVE: The Governor's Office of Citizen Service. Maureen has an MA in nonprofit management from Notre Dame of Maryland University and a BA in English from York College of Pennsylvania.

Amanda Edwards began her internship in the CNCS Office of Grants Management in October 2015 and continues to gain valuable knowledge of the grants process, while providing invaluable support for both grants management policy and operations. She is a recent graduate of the University of Baltimore with a bachelor's degree in government and public policy.

Kaira Esgate is the Chief Executive Officer of America's Service Commissions. Prior to her current position, Kaira served as the Executive Director of Reimagining Service, a national multi-sector coalition dedicated to converting good intentions into greater impact through effective volunteer engagement strategies. With Reimagining Service, Kaira led efforts to bring new data and insights to volunteering and developed the nationally recognized nonprofit service enterprise model. She also worked with CaliforniaVolunteers, the State Service Commission in California. At the commission, Kaira served in a variety of roles, including as Chief of Staff to the nation's first Cabinet-level Secretary of Service and Volunteering.



F

Chris Ford currently serves as CEO of the National Association of Veteran-Serving Organizations (NAVSO). His entrepreneurship, leadership, and passion have moved NAVSO from theoretical concept to public launch in 2014 and have positioned NAVSO to answer the long-demanded call for a national collaborative association for the nation's 40,000+ veteran-/military-serving organizations. Chris is a 20-year Air Force veteran retiring in 2014 from the Joint Chiefs of Staff where he served in the Chairman's Office of Warrior and Family Support. In this role, Chris leveraged his broad and deep perspectives on veteran reintegration to assist communities across 18 states seeking to improve their support for military families.

Heather Foster is the Executive Director of Volunteer West Virginia, the West Virginia State Service Commission. Over a 20 year career in public and nonprofit service, Heather has demonstrated a strong personal commitment to the role of civic participation and volunteerism as tools for solving problems and creating community change.

Katrina French is the Special Initiatives Program Officer in the CNCS Disaster Services Unit (DSU). Katrina previously served as an AmeriCorps NCCC Corps Member and Team Leader, and as an AmeriCorps VISTA. During her work with the DSU, Katrina has responded to the Mississippi 2011 tornado outbreak and flooding, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Hurricane Sandy, Yukon River flooding, and many other events. Due to her work in Mississippi Oil Spill Recovery, she was named a Champion of Change by the White House in 2011. Katrina now uses her experience in the field to support greater partnership, coordination, and training and technical assistance.

G

Lori Giblin is the Chief Risk Officer at CNCS with responsibility over the agency's four primary risk assessment programs: enterprise risk management, internal controls, criminal history check and improper payment compliance, and grant monitoring assessment. Lori joined CNCS in April and comes to the agency with 20 years of federal and state government experience in community development and finance. Her federal experience includes programmatic work in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Empowerment Zone Initiative, the Department of Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and, most recently, she served as a Managing Director at the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation where she helped establish the agency's internal assessment, enterprise risk management, and strategic planning functions. Lori has a master's degree in public administration from Arizona State University and serves on the steering committee of the Association of Federal Enterprise Risk Management's small agency community of practice.

John Gomperts became President and CEO of America's Promise Alliance in May 2012. Most recently, he served as Director of AmeriCorps State and National, where he focused on increasing community impact and strengthening the AmeriCorps member experience. Prior to that, John served as President of Civic Ventures, promoting the engagement of experienced baby boomers in encore careers. John also led Experience Corps, engaging people over 55 to be tutors and mentors in urban public schools. Early in his career, John served in a variety of positions that included Chief Operating Officer at Public Education Network, Chief of Staff for the Corporation for National and Community Service, Legislative Director for Senator Harris Wofford of Pennsylvania, and Deputy Director of the Senate Democratic Leadership Committee. Before heading to Capitol Hill, John practiced law and clerked for a federal judge. He has a JD from Georgetown University Law Center and an AB in history from University of California, Berkeley.



Deirdre Gonsalves is a Program Officer in AmeriCorps State and National. In this role, she manages a combined portfolio of single and multi-state programs. Prior to joining CNCS, Deirdre grew STEM youth development programs as National 4-H Council Grants Accounts Manager. With over 16 years in public and nonprofit service, she has managed federal grants as an Education Specialist with the Maryland State Department of Education; managed grants and projects for the Maryland Committee for Children; managed the Even Start Family Literacy Partnership; worked on housing affordability at NeighborWorks America; and worked with youth at the Seed Public Charter School. Deirdre has volunteered with the Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, the Study Circles Project, a local Children's Board, animal advocacy organizations, and she has served as board member for Alianza de la Comunidad. Deirdre has a master's degree in education from Howard University, and is pursuing graduate studies at John Hopkins University.

Jessica Graham is the Community Relations Manager at Cisco Systems. Jessica joined Cisco in 2012; in her role, she directs engagement programs for over 70,000 employees globally and leads annual giving campaigns, mentoring opportunities, individual and team volunteering, and board service. Prior to joining Cisco, Jessica worked in a variety of staff roles at Citizen Schools, including Director of Civic Engagement and Volunteer and Development Manager. Jessica also served as an AmeriCorps member at Citizen Schools in 2005-2007. She has a bachelor's degree in English and Spanish from Oakwood College and a master's degree in education from Lesley University.

H

Nicole Hawkins joined CNCS in November 2015 as Grants Management Specialist in the Office of Grants Management. She brings over 11 years of experience managing grants with a cross-functional background in grant administration and operational strategies. Prior to joining CNCS, Nicole served three years as Manager of Grants for United Way Worldwide, where she managed all aspects of the award process, and eight years as Grants Manager at Fannie Mae, where she managed over \$100M in grant funds. Nicole has a bachelor's degree and MBA from Phoenix University.

Amy Hetrick joined the staff of CNCS AmeriCorps State and National in 2006 and is a Senior Program Officer. She works with a team of six AmeriCorps Program Officers and provides oversight and support to a portfolio of state commissions, multi-state programs, and tribal AmeriCorps programs. Amy also works closely with the CNCS Partnership Office and the US Department of Education Office of State Support to coordinate the School Turnaround AmeriCorps grantee portfolio. Amy's commitment to service began in 1996-1998 when she was an AmeriCorps member through the Louisiana Delta Service Corps and the AmeriCorps Leaders Program.

Anne Hirsch is one of the Co-Directors of the Job Accommodation Network. Anne has worked with the Job Accommodation Network since 1986. She has an MS in rehabilitation counseling and vocational evaluation from West Virginia University. In 2006, Anne received the WVU College of Human Resource and Education Laddie R. Bell Distinguished Service Award for her national, regional, and local service to people with disabilities. Through the years, Anne has worked with all teams at the Job Accommodation Network. In addition, she presents on accommodation and employment issues for national, regional, and local audiences.

Ginna Holmes was appointed to serve as the Executive Director of the Michigan Community Service Commission in June 2013. In this role, Ginna oversees the day-to-day operations for the commission, which administers more than \$7.5 million in state, federal, and private funds to support local national service and volunteer efforts. Prior to joining the Michigan commission, Ginna worked in a variety of education roles in K-12 and higher education settings in Alma, Michigan. Her experience includes working as an At-Risk Counselor and Executive Director of the Alma Community Center's Explore Center and as the Director of Academic and Career Planning and the Associate Director of Alma College. Ginna has a BS in health education from Michigan State University and an MSA in education from Duquesne University.



Andrea House is a Grants Management Specialist with the CNCS Office of Grants Management. Upon receiving a BA in sociology/criminal justice, Andrea began her career managing federal grants with the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. In 2006, after receiving an MS in project management, Andrea joined the Department of Homeland Security as the Closeout Coordinator.

J

Bonnie Janicki is a Senior Grants Officer for Grant Operations in the CNCS Office of Grants Management. Currently, Bonnie manages a team of Grants Officers, who are responsible for managing a diverse portfolio of programs, including AmeriCorps State and National and the Social Innovation Fund. Bonnie began her federal service with CNCS in 1994.

Oksana Jensen is a Program Officer in AmeriCorps State and National. She joined CNCS in 2011, and, as a Program Officer, Oksana has worked with a diverse portfolio of commissions and national direct grantees. Prior to joining the AmeriCorps team, Oksana spent nine years at international development organizations where she managed youth development, civic engagement, human trafficking, and international education programs in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Oksana has a BA in international affairs and economics from the University of Maine and an MA in international politics from the School of International Service at American University.

K

Jennifer Kerner joined CNCS as an AmeriCorps State and National Program Officer in March 2013. She is a proud alumna of AmeriCorps; she served with Volunteer Maryland, a state program that develops volunteer programs at nonprofits. After her service, she held various roles at local nonprofits. Immediately prior to her employment with CNCS, Jen was a Program Officer at the Maryland State Service Commission, where she oversaw a diverse portfolio of subgrantees.

Brent Kossick has served as Director of the South Carolina Service Commission since 2013. As Director, Brent provides leadership to a state-wide portfolio of grantees that include nonprofits, government agencies, and institutions of higher learning.

Joel Krogstad has directed the Community Technology Empowerment Project (CTEP) AmeriCorps program since 2006. CTEP's 35 AmeriCorps State members teach technology literacy skills for social, civic, and economic empowerment in the Twin Cities, and has been twice awarded "One of the Top 50 Most Innovative AmeriCorps Programs in the Nation" by Innovations in Civic Participation. Joel has a master's degree in work, community, and family education as well as a master's minor in program evaluation from the University of Minnesota. He also completed two years of national service in AmeriCorps and VISTA.

L

Charndrea Leonard has worked for AmeriCorps State and National for 12 years; she has served as a Senior Program Officer since 2012. Charndrea is dedicated to helping AmeriCorps strive for excellence and has been instrumental in facilitating the growth in the investment that AmeriCorps has made in Native communities across the country. Charndrea began her AmeriCorps experience as a member with City Year in Columbia, SC and stayed with the program for three and a half years in a variety of staff roles. Charndrea has a BA and an MPA from the University of Georgia.

Vincent (Tony) LePore is the Director of IT Policy and Planning in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) at CNCS. Tony manages IT governance oversight activities on behalf of the CIO, including financial management and systems quality assurance. Currently, Tony serves as the Deputy Program Manager for Grants and Member Management Modernization. Prior to joining CNCS, Tony worked at the US Department of Health and Human Services, where he supported governance of the department's \$7 billion IT investment portfolio and managed implementation of the system used to track the agency's work related to the Affordable Care Act.



M

Rachel Manuel Bruns is the Deputy Director of America's Service Commissions, and she is an advocate for national service and volunteering. Rachel's career has focused on expanding infrastructure to use service as a strategy to meet pressing community needs. She has served as the Strategy and Development Officer for the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, Director of Volunteer Wisconsin, and Executive Director of Iowa Campus Compact. Rachel is a graduate of Drake University and actively involved in the Des Moines community.

Margaret Mattinson joined CNCS as a Program Officer in 2005. She manages a portfolio with single and multi-state programs, and is part of the CNCS Disaster Cadre. Before joining CNCS, Margaret directed community-based and field-based programs that addressed sustainable food production, emergency food distribution, forest development, and water quality. Margaret also enjoyed working in a variety of projects with the Peace Corps, USAID, USDA, and Project Concern International in Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, and Moldova. Margaret has an MS in agronomy from the University of Florida.

Heather McDonald is a Program Officer with AmeriCorps State and National, where she has worked since November 2009. In her current role, Heather manages a portfolio of grants supporting AmeriCorps members throughout the United States. Additionally, she serves as the department's Healthy Futures subject matter expert and is one of the CNCS representatives on the Let's Move! in Indian Country interagency team. Heather's prior experience includes three years as a Program Assistant in AmeriCorps State and National, four years as a Country Desk Assistant in the Africa Region of the Peace Corps, and a year and a half as an Administrative Clerk in the Peace Corps Placement office.

Ted Miller is the Chief of External Affairs at CNCS. Ted and his team are charged with telling the story of how AmeriCorps members make a difference in communities across the country. They run the AmeriCorps social media channels, help prepare members for interviews, and work with the White House to spotlight AmeriCorps programs. Before joining CNCS in August 2012, Ted worked for nonprofit organizations and as Press Secretary to former Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota and then-Representative Sherrod Brown of Ohio. Ted also worked as a presidential appointee in the Clinton administration at the US Department of Agriculture, and he has a degree in journalism from the University of Kansas.

Special Agent Jeff Morales joined the CNCS Office of Inspector General in 2004, as a Senior Special Agent, and was appointed as the Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations in 2009. Jeff has over 20 years of experience in the federal law enforcement field. Jeff started his law enforcement career as a Special Agent with the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID). As a CID Special Agent, he served as a member of the General Crimes Team, working with the Drug Suppression Team Chief and the Economic Crimes Team Chief. Jeff was also detailed as a Mission Special Agent in Charge for the security of the Secretary of Defense.

Jen Murphy is the Program Officer for Operations in the CNCS Disaster Services Unit. Jen is responsible for national service disaster response operations as well as coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other partners.

O

Shari Orr is a Program Officer with AmeriCorps State and National, where she manages a portfolio of state, national, and tribal AmeriCorps grants. She has worked with public and nonprofit agencies for eight years, including roles in program design, grant administration, volunteer management, communications, and fundraising. In addition, Shari completed two years of service with the United States Peace Corps in Swaziland, managing a nationwide library initiative and implementing youth development programs. Shari earned a master's degree in public administration and a graduate certificate in nonprofit management from the University of Central Florida.



P

Arminda Pappas joined CNCS as a Program Officer in 2015, and she manages a diverse portfolio of programs. Prior to joining CNCS, Arminda worked with an environmental policy thinktank, managing an international subgrant portfolio with programs engaged in advocacy and research work worldwide. Arminda has also managed USAID training programs for internationally-based organizations and worked for several years on a humanitarian aid project. Arminda served as a Peace Corps volunteer and has a BA in history and Spanish from Humboldt State University.

Tova Pertman joined CNCS as an AmeriCorps State and National Program Officer in 2012. Prior to that, Tova worked in the international education and development field for 12 years with IREX in Washington, DC and Moscow. During that time, she managed large educational exchange and development programming focusing on the Eurasian and South East Asian regions. She also has prior work experience with the International City/County Management Association and the Associated Press Broadcast Services. Tova is a graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park. Tova is also a proud returned Peace Corps volunteer, and she served in the Republic of Moldova for two years.

Kate Pisano is the Director of AmeriCorps Programs at Serve Rhode Island (RI State Commission). After graduating from the University of Rhode Island with a bachelor's degree in marine biology, she served as an AmeriCorps member for two years with the Ocean State Environmental Education Collaborative. Prior to joining the Serve Rhode Island team, Kate managed programming and volunteer opportunities for The Nature Conservancy.

Olga Prokhorova joined CNCS as a Program Officer in 2015. She manages a portfolio of single and multi-state programs. Before joining CNCS, Olga managed a large portfolio of international programs that focused on community development, child protection, higher education, youth and volunteerism, migration, public health, protection of flora and fauna, public entrepreneurship, and business ethics. She has worked with USAID, the US Department of State, and the National Endowment for Democracy. Olga has master's degree in public and international affairs from Virginia Tech University.

R

Stacey Rapp has been in service to LISC's mission since 1996, when she accepted a position with LISC Newark. While in Newark, Stacey managed four cohorts of AmeriCorps teams before moving to LISC's NY headquarters to serve as the Program Officer and then Program Director. She manages all aspects of LISC's AmeriCorps program, from ensuring high quality member service assignments to managing evaluation efforts. Stacey has an MBA from Rutgers, where she received the Prudential Arts Management Award for excellence in nonprofit management studies and was a finalist in a business plan competition to drive creative place-making efforts in downtown Newark.

Erica Rice is a Team Lead on the CNCS Criminal History Check (CHC) team. She joined the CHC team in August 2016. Before taking on this role, Erica worked as an Improper Payments Manager with CNCS since 2014. She has extensive experience with alternate search procedures, exemptions, and CHC compliance testing. Erica has a JD from the University of Louisville.



Heather Rieman is the CNCS Senior Advisor for Education Initiatives. Prior to joining CNCS, she was the Chief of Staff in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at the US Department of Education and a Senior Policy Advisor. Before joining the Department of Education, Heather was the Co-Director and Co-Founder of Critical Exposure, a nonprofit organization that teaches youth to use the power of photography and their own voices to become effective advocates for school reform and social change. Heather was also a Senior Policy Analyst for the Education Policy Program at the New America Foundation. In 2001, she was named a Presidential Management Fellow and worked at the US Department of Education as a Program and Policy Analyst in the budget office. Heather has a master's degree in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a bachelor's degree from Tufts University.

Ramona Rodriguez-Washington is the Program Director for the AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program at Wayne State University. Her areas of professional expertise include survey research, program evaluation, grant writing, and program management. Ramona joined the University's Center for Urban Studies as a student assistant in 2006, and participated in the development and implementation of the Part B Parent Survey of Special Education for the Michigan Department of Education. She joined the full-time research staff in 2006. Ramona continues as the Lead Researcher on the Part B Parent Survey, and serves as Learning Coordinator for the Center for Urban Studies Learning Community. She has been Program Director for the Center's AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program since it launched in 2010. Ramona also led the development and implementation of the Detroit Youth Service Corps in 2015, a summer service-learning program for urban youth. The program completed its second summer in 2016. Ramona has an MPA and a BA from Wayne State University.

Peter Rumsey is the Director of National Service at Habitat for Humanity International. Peter supports Habitat for Humanity's global strategy to mobilize volunteers as the hearts, hands, and voices for the cause of affordable housing. In his role, Peter oversees a diverse portfolio of long-term volunteer programs, including Habitat AmeriCorps, Campus Chapters, Habitat Young Professionals, and RV Care-A-Vanners. These programs annually engage thousands of volunteers and over 425 AmeriCorps National and VISTA members in service with Habitat for Humanity across the United States. Peter is a graduate of Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.

S

Debbie Schuffenhauer joined Serve Washington in 2006 and was appointed Executive Director in July 2012. Her work in the service sector began in the Washington Service Corps (WSC), one of the largest single-state AmeriCorps programs in the country. During her 18 year tenure at the WSC, Debbie held various roles, including eight years as Deputy Director before joining the commission. Debbie was elected to the Board of Directors of the America's Service Commissions in 2014, the board of Washington Campus Compact in 2016, and serves on the advisory board for Service House, an initiative to provide affordable housing and education about service and philanthropy for full-time volunteers. In 2016, Voices for National Service recognized Debbie as National Service Advocate of the Year.

Sandy Scott is Senior Advisor to the CEO and State Commission Liaison at CNCS. He serves as an advocate and resource for the network of 52 Governor-appointed State Service Commissions, which play a central role in administering AmeriCorps and leading state service and volunteerism efforts. He also advises CNCS CEO Wendy Spencer on policy, strategy, data, communications, and government relations. Sandy has served at CNCS since 1995 in a variety of positions including Senior Communications Advisor, Director of Public Affairs, Director of Government Affairs, Senior Writer, Press Secretary, and Speechwriter. Prior to CNCS, he worked for seven years on Capitol Hill as a professional staff member of the House Interior Committee and as a legislative assistant for a Member of Congress from Minnesota.



Tracey Seabolt is a Grants Management Specialist with the CNCS Office of Grants Management, where she manages a portfolio of AmeriCorps State and National awards. Since her arrival at CNCS in 2006, she was also a Learn and Serve America Program Coordinator and State Program Specialist for Senior Corps and VISTA programs in the District of Columbia and Maryland. Prior to joining the federal government, Tracey managed service-learning and volunteer programs in community-based and government settings for nearly 15 years. Tracey volunteers with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society as well as the US Naval Academy's Sponsor Program.

Beth Slater is Research Analyst in the CNCS Office of Research and Evaluation, focusing on supporting grantees and staff with various research and evaluation needs. Previously, Beth worked as a consultant with syringe exchange programs, food pantries, and soup kitchens, and she worked at the Food Bank of Central New York as the Director of Member Programs, Advocacy, and Grant Writing. Beth has a PhD in public administration from the University at Albany, where her research focused on nonprofit management, capacity assessments, and emergency food programs' effectiveness. Her dissertation explored connecting capacity to effectiveness in grassroots nonprofits.

Wendy Spencer was unanimously confirmed by the US Senate on April 9, 2012, to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of CNCS. Under Wendy's leadership, CNCS has launched new partnerships, including Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Corps, School Turnaround AmeriCorps, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) AmeriCorps, VetSuccess AmeriCorps, justice AmeriCorps, and Financial Opportunity Corps; increased the agency's focus on veterans and military families; and overseen the national response to a number of severe disasters. Her efforts to engage elected officials include creating the annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service, where 1,760 mayors express their appreciation for Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and volunteerism in general.

Don Stamper has had careers in emergency medical services/emergency management, elected office, and community development in the private sector. He is now back in public service serving as the Executive Director of the Missouri Community Services Commission. Don's career and work experience have focused on leadership.

Aaron Stanton is the Program Director of VetsWork at the Mt. Adams Institute. He has a background in public education administration in Washington and Oregon and worked over 17 years in public school special education, including eight years in administration. Aaron's experience includes working as a Speech Language Pathologist/Autism Specialist and Director of Student Support Services in two school districts in Washington. Aaron has a BA and MA in speech and hearing sciences from Washington State University.

David Steefel-Moore is National AmeriCorps Director for Match Education, an engine of discovery and applied innovation in education. In its first year (2015-2016), Match's National Direct Partnership Challenge AmeriCorps grant placed 186 members in 10 schools to tutor and mentor over 1,000 economically disadvantaged students. David designed and oversaw all compliance and program management systems for the grant, and also worked to expand the program to 15 schools for the 2016-2017 program year. Before joining Match, David taught in a charter school and then attended the Harvard Graduate School of Education to study urban education reform, public health, and political advocacy.

T

Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi is the Deputy Director of AmeriCorps State and National at CNCS. Jennifer has worked in national and community service for over 20 years. Before her appointment at CNCS in 2010, she was a vice president at YouthBuild USA, where she oversaw all of the agency's AmeriCorps programming. At YouthBuild, Jennifer held various positions over 11 years. Prior to her work at YouthBuild, Jennifer was a Search Consultant at Isaacson Miller in Boston and a Program Officer in AmeriCorps from 1996-1998. She also worked at Campus Outreach Opportunity League and Youth Service America.



Shar'ron Tendai is the Program Support Specialist in the CNCS Office of Program Operations. In this role, Shar'ron manages all online training material on the National Service Knowledge Network and provides Section 508 support to all national service programs.

V

Emma Vadehra began her service as Chief of Staff to US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in July 2013. From 2009 to 2011, Emma served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development at the US Department of Education, overseeing K-12 education policy development and issues related to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. From 2011 to 2013, Emma served as Chief of Staff at Uncommon Schools, a charter school management organization that starts up and manages urban charter schools. Before joining the Department in 2009, she worked as a Senior Education Counsel for the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the staff of the US Senate Education Committee, as well as on K-12 education policy, and student loan and national service policy. Emma has a JD from Yale Law School and a bachelor's degree from Brown University.

W

Barbara Poindexter Webb joined CNCS in July 2016 as a Grants Management Specialist with the Office of Grants Management. Prior to joining CNCS, Barbara worked as a Grants Manager at the Maryland State Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation Division of Workforce and Adult Learning. She also served as the state's Coordinator for Family Literacy Programs and the National External Diploma Program.

Jamie Welch is a Program Officer with AmeriCorps State and National, where she manages a portfolio of state, national, and tribal AmeriCorps grants. Jamie has over five years of program management experience, including grant administration, program design, and volunteer management. She served as a United States Peace Corps volunteer in Kyrgyzstan, teaching elementary and high school ESOL. Prior to joining CNCS, Jamie worked with Migration and Refugee Services, where she provided program oversight for domestic refugee resettlement programs and training and technical assistance for anti-human trafficking. Jamie has a master's degree in international development from American University.

Tyler Wright proudly served in the United States Navy from 2008-2013. As a Hospital Corpsman, he was assigned to the Naval Postgraduate Dental School (NPDS) in Bethesda, Maryland, fulfilling numerous clinical and administrative roles. While in the Navy, Tyler went to school during the evenings and weekends, finishing a BS in health care management from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and an MS in public administration from Central Michigan University. Within days of transitioning out of the Navy, Tyler became an AmeriCorps VISTA member with Student Veterans of America (SVA), the premier veteran service organization focused on supporting veterans and their families through higher education. After fulfilling his service year as Outreach Coordinator, Tyler was hired as SVA's Senior Regional Outreach Director and AmeriCorps VISTA Program Manager. Having witnessed firsthand the transformative power of volunteerism, Tyler accepted a position with Points of Light as Senior Manager Of Military Initiatives. This position allows him to share the message of national service with the veteran community.

