



# *Harkin Excellence in AmeriCorps Programming and Service Awards*



## AmeriCorps State and National Symposium 2016



# *Harkin Awards*



- ✓ Established in 2014
- ✓ Created to honor long-time service and support of Senator Tom Harkin
- ✓ 4 recipients in 2016



## Award Categories:

Program and Member



**BARBARA BUSH**  
HOUSTON LITERACY FOUNDATION

# Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation



***Nominated by  
One Star Foundation  
Texas State Service Commission***

# Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation



- Formed in 2013
- First VISTA joined the team in 2014
- VISTAs are critical to creating program structure and engaging community



# Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation VISTA Project



# VISTA Project Results



- ✓ VISTAs are key players addressing Houston's literacy crisis
- ✓ Launched [Connect4Literacy.org](http://Connect4Literacy.org)
- ✓ Mobilized over 5,000 volunteers to serve in 30 literacy organizations
- ✓ *Read Across the Globe* engaged 3,500 volunteers to read in 200 schools with 65,000 children

# Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation VISTA Project





# OUR CITY FOREST

A stylized illustration in dark brown and green. It shows a hand with fingers slightly curled, holding a small tree sapling with a thin trunk and three green leaves. The hand is positioned to the right of the text 'OUR CITY'.

# Our City Forest



- Urban forestry nonprofit in San Jose
- Tree planting services
- Environmental education
- Community nursery
- AmeriCorps program since 2006
- AmeriCorps members:
  - Replace water thirsty lawns with drought tolerant landscapes
  - Engage community volunteers



# Our City Forest Partners

Santa Clara Valley  
Water District



CITY OF  
**SAN JOSE**

CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY



# Our City Forest Lawn Busters



# Lawn Busters Results

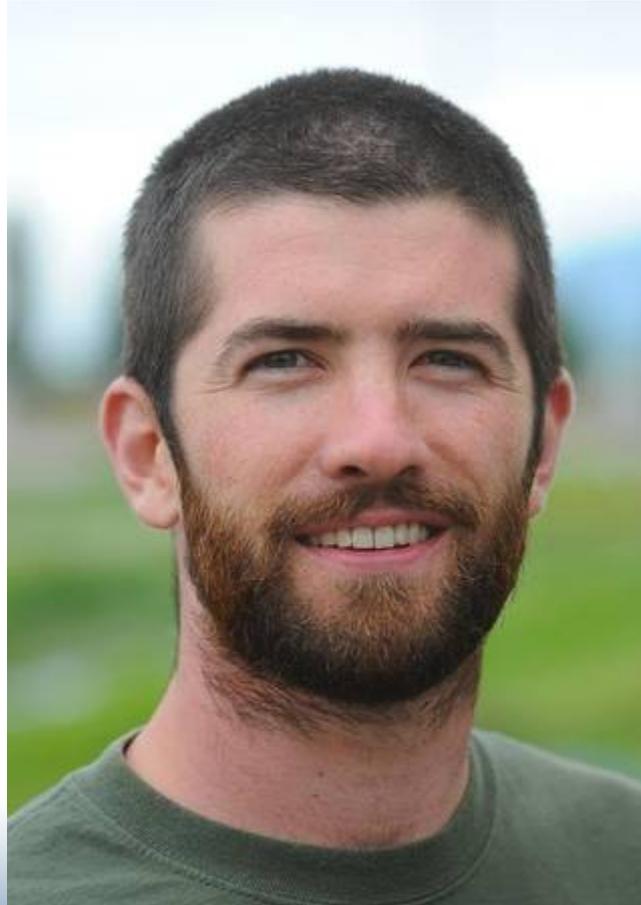
AmeriCorps program enhancement with Lawn Busters:

- ✓ Lawn conversion saves **31 gallons of water per year**, per square foot
- ✓ AmeriCorps members have conserved over **2.4 million gallons** of water in 77 households in the last year

# Our City Forest



# Christopher Brown

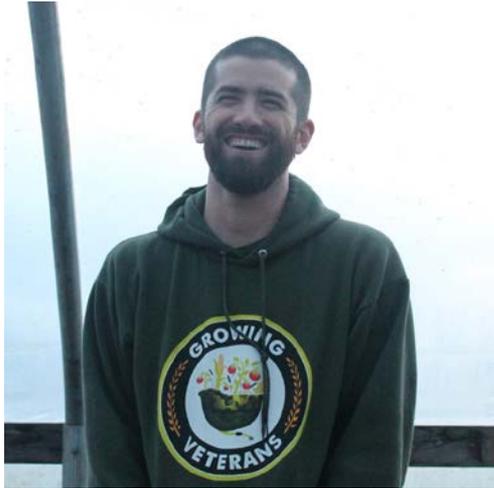


# Christopher Brown



***Nominated by  
Serve Washington  
Washington State Service Commission***

# Christopher Brown



- Served in the United States Marine Corps
- Completed 3 combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Joined Washington Vet Corps to continue serving and start a career working with veterans
- Created Growing Veterans

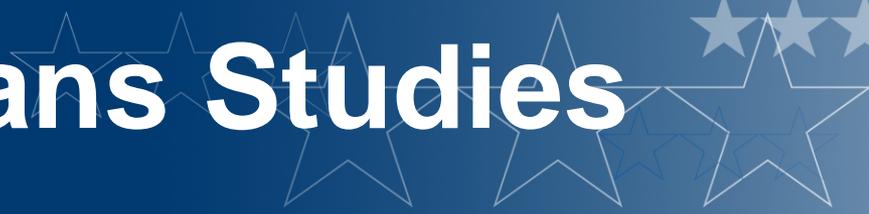


***“My service experience built the foundation for me to begin addressing serious veteran issues and developing something that was missing in our society.”***

# Growing Veterans



# Journal of Veterans Studies



Growing Veterans is an innovative, peer support program at a veteran run community agriculture initiative that:

- builds relationships with regional branches of national agencies to engage veterans in service; and
- “moves veteran reintegration farther from isolation and closer to social solidarity.”

# Christopher Brown



# James Marvin Taylor, IV



# James Marvin Taylor, IV



***Nominated by  
Public Allies Chicago***

# James Marvin Taylor, IV



- Came to Public Allies through the Peace Corner Youth Center
- Joined Public Allies to grow leadership skills and access additional educational opportunities
- Served with Chicago Public Schools Office of Diverse Learners



***“I think if you can do more for people, if you can give more, you can change somebody’s life.”***

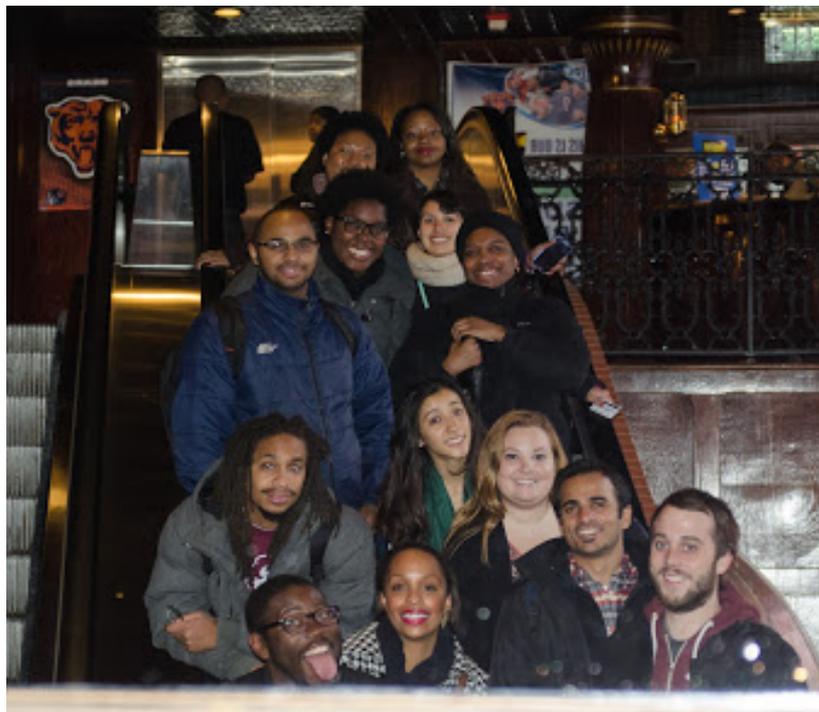
# James Marvin Taylor, IV

- ✓ Served with Office of Diverse Learners in Chicago Public Schools
- ✓ Helped design, implement, and refine system to track students with special needs and ensure they had proper access to education
- ✓ Supervisor says his service revolutionized how schools track and support their diverse learners

# James Marvin Taylor, IV



# James Marvin Taylor, IV



***“My service experience transformed my view on myself.”***

# 2016 Harkin Award Recipients

***Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation  
VISTA Project***

***Our City Forest***

***Christopher Brown***

***James Marvin Taylor, IV***



***Thank you for your service!***