



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA CELEBRATED 25 YEARS OF AMERICORPS IN LOUISIANA

BATON ROUGE, La. – AmeriCorps members from across the state gathered in Baton Rouge on Friday, October 25, 2019, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of AmeriCorps with a full day of activities, including panel discussions with AmeriCorps Alumni, led by Carissa Graves, Volunteer Louisiana Commissioner and AmeriCorps Alum, who shared their personal reflections on the impact service made on their lives. As part of the celebration, 150 Louisiana AmeriCorps members took their oath and were sworn in for the upcoming year. The event culminated with remarks from East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President Sharon Weston-Broome, a former Volunteer Louisiana Commissioner, and U.S. Representative Garret Graves, a member of the National Service Caucus.

Mayor-President Sharon Weston-Broome shared personal stories of how AmeriCorps and Senior Corps have impacted her own family and thanked the assembled AmeriCorps members for their service. “When I see people who are involved in AmeriCorps, it says to me that you truly understand that your concern for others is the true measure of your greatness.”

Representative Graves recognized the value of service and volunteering. “In giving, you also receive. In giving to our communities, your gift multiplies exponentially and provides extraordinary benefits.” He then led the group in a ceremonial swearing in and reciting of the AmeriCorps Pledge.

“This event was a great opportunity to celebrate the 25 year legacy of AmeriCorps in Louisiana – from disaster response to tutoring and mentoring – to rebuilding our coast and communities - while also celebrating the service of current AmeriCorps members and those who will serve over the next 25 years,” said Volunteer Louisiana Executive Director Judd Jeansonne reflecting on the event. “We are grateful to everyone who celebrated this special milestone with us!”

Since AmeriCorps’ inception in 1994, more than 1 million Americans have served, providing more than 1.5 billion hours of service and earned more than \$3.6 billion in education scholarships. In Louisiana, over **26,000** AmeriCorps members have served 20 million hours since 1994, meeting the critical needs in education, economic opportunity, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, veterans and military families, and disaster services for the communities they serve.

To learn more and to read our Stories of Service celebrating the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps, visit volunteerlouisiana.gov/amicorps.

Photo Links/Captions:

Photo 1: 150 AmeriCorps members in Louisiana took their oaths of service for the upcoming year during the 25th anniversary celebration of AmeriCorps on October 25, 2019. (Photo credit: Volunteer Louisiana)

Photo 2: U.S. Representative Garret Graves addresses 150 members of AmeriCorps in Louisiana about service to the state during the 25th anniversary celebration of AmeriCorps on October 25, 2019. (Photo credit: Volunteer Louisiana)

Photo 3: Volunteer Louisiana Executive Director Judd Jeansonne, Representative Garret Graves, and Volunteer Louisiana Commissioner and AmeriCorps alum Shedonna Martin-Mason celebrate the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps on October 25, 2019. (Photo credit: Volunteer Louisiana)

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