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# Hot Doc Invitation: AmeriCorps Informational Brunch

March 15, 2012

AmeriCorps: Your Community In Action

If you are looking for a chance to do something beneficial to the local, state, or national community while deferring college debt, check into AmeriCorps. The differences that individuals are making today will lead to a better world for years to come. More information can be found on their website, [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov), and at the informational session that the Georgia Southern Henderson Library will be hosting on **March 22, 2012 in the first floor exhibit room at 11:00 A.M. Food will be provided for those in attendance.** Jeremy Foreman from HandsOn Southeast Georgia will be leading the discussion.

Foreman is a nonprofit consultant and the founding executive director of HandsOn Southeast Georgia — a grassroots, nonpartisan organization — which convenes a support network of partners including volunteers, corporate citizens, educational institutions, faith-based groups, government allies, nonprofit agencies and community-based organizations to improve lives and meet critical needs. He serves as a National Service advocate and member of the ServiceNation coalition. He will be joined by Kim Fritz, an AmeriCorps Alum now working at HandsOn Savannah, who will share her AmeriCorps service experience.

AmeriCorps is one of the largest Community Service initiatives in the world. Members are recognized the nation over as being strong, hard working, compassionate, and advocates for social advancement. They do volunteer work which includes tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged youth, fighting illiteracy, improving health services, building affordable housing, teaching computer skills, cleaning parks and streams, managing and/or operating after-school programs, helping communities respond to disasters, & building organizational capacity.

Since 1994 over 637,000 people have served as AmeriCorps Volunteers working approximately 774 million hours. In Georgia alone, 11,985 AmeriCorps members have served over 15,940,032 hours of service. In exchange for their hours of service AmeriCorps volunteers are able to receive a “Segal AmeriCorps Education Award” to help pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans; members who serve part-time receive a partial Award.” (“What is AmeriCorps”) In 2007 the College Cost Reduction and Access Act opened two more federal programs to help forgive and reduce federal student loans.

There are three different main branches of AmeriCorps that an individual can sign up for. These branches are AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps.

AmeriCorps State and National is the largest of AmeriCorps programs. They “provide funds to local and national organizations and agencies committed to using national service to address critical community needs in education, public safety, health and the environment.” (“AmeriCorps State and National”)

AmeriCorps Vista was founded under President Kennedy . “AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty.” (“AmeriCorps Vista”) Currently there are over 6,500 opportunities to fight poverty at more than 1,200 locations across the country. (“AmeriCorps Vista”)

AmeriCorps NCCC is “a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women age 18–24. Members are assigned to one of five campuses, located in Denver, Colorado; Sacramento, California; Perry Point, Maryland; Vicksburg, Mississippi; and Vinton, Iowa. [Their] mission...is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. In partnership with non-profits—secular and faith based, local municipalities, state governments, federal government, national or state parks, Indian Tribes and schools members complete service projects throughout the region they are assigned.” (“AmeriCorps NCCC”)

So, if you need funds to help pay for college, community service hours, networking opportunities, or just have a huge heart come out to Georgia Southern University’s Henderson Library on March 22, 2012 at 11:00 A.M. for more information on how you can become involved with AmeriCorps. Free Food will be provided for those who attend the discussion. The AmeriCorps discussion brunch is an effort to further Georgia Southern University’s mission of promoting civic and community engagement. **Recognition for excellence in this area may be awarded to the University by Carnegie Community Engagement Elective Classification.**

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