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## Newsroom

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# Georgia Southern University Student Chosen to Serve With AmeriCorps

FEBRUARY 21, 2011

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Georgia Southern University student Alicia Bennett has been chosen to work with AmeriCorps, one of the premier volunteer organizations in the United States, as they assist underprivileged students around the country.

Bennett, who is from Lithonia, Ga., will be a team leader managing a group of AmeriCorps volunteer tutors and mentors. The group will work with children from an array of cultures in six California schools to help them learn English as a second language and as they study to earn a general education diploma. Bennett will also help enlist additional volunteers for the program.

"I hope I can have an impact with AmeriCorps. If I hear just one person say his or her life was changed — that they may go to college or fulfill a dream because I helped them — it will all be worth it," said Bennett.

Bennett is no stranger to volunteer recruitment or community involvement. As a community liaison to Westwood Nursing Center for Georgia Southern University's Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, she founded the local "Adopt a Grandparent" initiative that connects college students with nursing home residents for weekly visits. The program not only encourages elderly participants, it also benefits students who learn from their partner's wisdom and experience.

"Alicia is a truly dedicated and hard-working individual, who has a heart for serving others," said Heather Jo Harralson, who supervises Bennett in her role as community liaison. "I have no doubt that she will go on to make an impact in this world, bettering the lives of less-fortunate individuals, and leaving a legacy for many to follow."

Bennett will earn a Bachelor of Arts in English with a Minor in Health and Kinesiology in May before reporting this July to her new post in San Francisco. After her 10-month post ends, she plans to return to Statesboro and enter the Higher Education Administration master's program at Georgia Southern. Learn more about her work with AmeriCorps at <http://calserves.org/join/ftmentor.html>.

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