

Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Lauds Efforts of New Jersey AmeriCorps Members

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"End of Year Event" Showcases Positive Effects of Community Service across New Jersey Communities

Trenton, NJ – Highlighting the extraordinary impact community service efforts have on individuals and communities across New Jersey, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today attended AmeriCorps "End of Year Event" at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. The annual gathering celebrated the fulfillment of AmeriCorps members' commitment to a year of community service in the essential need areas of education, disaster services, economic opportunity, healthy futures, and environmental stewardship.

"Overseeing New Jersey's volunteerism and community service programs is one of the most rewarding aspects of my dual role as Secretary of State," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "AmeriCorps members make such a profound impact on so many lives and in so many unique ways that it is impossible to measure the value of their contributions to our quality of life. I have seen this firsthand on many occasions, including working with them on Superstorm Sandy recovery and rebuilding projects. Needless to say, embracing any opportunity to thank them personally for their efforts is the least we can do."

Over the past year, AmeriCorps programs in New Jersey were able to engage 12,810 volunteers who, in turn, provided nearly 56,000 hours of service in communities throughout New Jersey. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Educational and mentoring support to over 3,300 children and youth;
- Helping 25 families return home after Sandy;
- Providing emergency food services to nearly 4,300 adults and children; and
- Cleaning two miles of New Jersey waterway and clearing almost one ton of debris

In addition to celebrating the efforts of statewide AmeriCorps members, the "End of Year" event featured an informative panel discussion on service-driven career trends and job opportunities, in addition to a presentation by Janis Glenn, founder of Pathways Leadership Coaching and former adjunct faculty member at the National Service Leadership Institute.

AmeriCorps is the National Service Program that provides civic-minded Americans with an opportunity to earn education awards in exchange for community service. Members commit to either a one or two-year obligation to help meet critical national needs in the areas of education, public safety, human needs, and the environment.

AmeriCorps programming falls under the purview of the New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service, which is an agency of the Department of State.

Those interested in seeking volunteerism opportunities in New Jersey, or who simply wish to learn more about the efforts of the Governor's Office Volunteerism, are encouraged to visit Volunteerism.NJ.gov.

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