

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Recognizes AmeriCorps Graduate

Jackson, MS – Governor Musgrove honored the AmeriCorp First Venue Graduation class today at a ceremony held at the Clarion Hotel in Jackson. Over 650 members completed 1,700 hours of direct service in four areas including housing, education, health and public welfare, and the environment.

“Each year the work of the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service and the AmeriCorp improve the overall quality of life in our state,” said Musgrove. “The Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service helped over 650 students earn \$2.5 million in National Education Trust Awards to further their college education which puts new teachers into our classrooms.”

The AmeriCorps is the domestic Peace Corps and engages more than 40,000 Americans in intensive, results-driven service each year. Over 650 Mississippi members of the AmeriCorps family of national service programs successfully completed the required 1,700 hours of serve and participated in today’s celebration. AmeriCorps members serve in a variety of nonprofit and other charitable placements for one year. In return for this service, members receive a small living stipend and healthcare benefits. At the end of a successful term of service, each member is entitled to a voucher worth \$4,725, which may be used to pay off student loans or finance further education.

The Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service is made up of members appointed by the Governor. The MCVS mission is to engage and support Mississippians of all ages and backgrounds in service to their communities.