

**Washington Campus Compact Honors 19 AmeriCorps Members
During AmeriCorps Week May 13-20**

Contact: Brian Heinrich, (360) 650-4147, brian.heinrich@wwu.edu

May 14, 2007

BELLINGHAM – During AmeriCorps Week, May 13-20, a weeklong recognition of AmeriCorps members and their activities, Washington Campus Compact (WACC) recognizes the 19 AmeriCorps Retention Project members serving at 16 universities and colleges across the state.

The Retention Project improves academic achievement, increases attendance rates and encourages interest in participating in postsecondary education for disadvantaged high schools students and supports the development of their civic engagement skills, behaviors and attitudes. The Washington State Commission for National and Community Service awarded the \$252,000 AmeriCorps grant to Washington Campus Compact, based at Western Washington University, in 2006.

“The Retention Project will place more than 1,600 college students as mentors with middle and high school students to improve school success and college access,” said WACC Executive Director Jennifer Dorr. “We have partnered with 16 colleges and universities and placed 19 AmeriCorps members on their campuses to help students achieve success in classrooms across the state.”

AmeriCorps programs provide opportunities for Americans to make an intensive commitment to service. During the week of May 13-20 AmeriCorps will welcome its 500,000th member.

The Washington State Commission for National and Community Service seeks to expand the ethic of service by inviting citizens of all ages and backgrounds to contribute their time and talents to strengthen and build healthy communities. Members of the Commission are appointed by Gov. Chris Gregoire and review and approve applications for the AmeriCorps grants that are awarded in Washington state.

Established in 1992 and hosted at Western Washington University, Washington Campus Compact and its membership of 31 two- and four-year colleges and universities are committed to providing meaningful experiences for students to become active,

engaged leaders in their communities, furthering the civic and public purposes of higher education and strengthening communities. Washington Campus Compact is an affiliate state office of Campus Compact, a national organization comprised of more than 1,100 higher education institutions committed to the civic and public purposes of higher education.

The following are being honored:

Emily Mack, Cascadia Community College/University of Washington, Bothell;
Layla Karst, Eastern Washington University, Hometown: Casper, Wyo.;
Heather Magana, Eastern Washington University, Hometown: Pullman, Wash.;
Kimberley Morgan, Edmonds Community College, Hometown: Richland, Wash.;
Mitzellah Ah-Fook, Edmonds Community College
Miki Foster, The Evergreen State College, Hometown: Walnut Creek, Calif.;
John Mascardo, Gonzaga University
Chay Maltos, Heritage University, Hometown: Pasco, Wash.;
Adelaida Vargas, Heritage University, Hometown: Prosser, Wash.;
Jason Chadick, Northwest Indian College, Hometown: Alexandria, Va.;
Chris Mulvey, Seattle University, Hometown: Boston, Mass.;
Scott Florence, Spokane Community College, Hometown: Glasgow, Mont.;
Adam Heyd, Tacoma Community College, Hometown: Eugene, Ore.;
Spencer Pan, Tacoma Community College, Hometown: Gig Harbor, Wash.;
Sheryl Bell, University of Washington, Tacoma, Hometown: Omaha, Neb.;
Kasey Hooter, Walla Walla Community College, Hometown: Monroe, La.;
Tafona Brar, Washington State University, Hometown: Tacoma, Wash.;
Sara Radoff, Western Washington University, Hometown: Nashua, N.H.

