



Washington Campus Compact Receives AmeriCorps Grant
Retention Project to Mentor Students In Three States

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BELLINGHAM – The Corporation for National and Community Service has awarded a \$585,000 AmeriCorps grant to Washington Campus Compact, based at Western Washington University.

The grant will support the Retention Project program at higher education campuses in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

The Retention Project is a college-based mentoring program that utilizes service-learning as a strategy to reduce the dropout rates of disadvantaged and non-traditional students at the middle and high school level, improve the retention and academic advancement of first generation college students, and support college access and success efforts by creating a pipeline to higher education.

“The Retention Project will provide 15,000 middle school, high school, and college students who are at risk of dropping out of school with a college student mentor,” said Washington Campus Compact Executive Director Jennifer Dorr. “Through this program, 2,700 college student volunteers will mentor struggling students achieve success in the classroom and continue their education through college.”

The grant is among the first made since the bipartisan Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act was passed last year. AmeriCorps resources are focused in five key areas: strengthening education, improving health, meeting environmental and energy efficiency needs, assisting veterans and military families, and fostering economic opportunity.

“I worked hard to pass the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act because I believe that national service is good for the volunteers and good for the communities they

serve,” said Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). “Washington Campus Compact’s Retention Project is exactly the sort of effort these grants were meant to encourage. And I am proud that this investment is going to give thousands of young people the support they need to stay in school and keep their lives on track.”

AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet critical needs. Its members serve in thousands of nonprofit and faith-based organizations in rural and urban communities throughout the nation. Among other activities, tutor and mentor youth, expand health services, build affordable housing, run after-school programs, support veterans, help communities respond to disasters, and recruit and train volunteers.

AmeriCorps engages more than 85,000 people each year in intensive, results-driven service through more than 3,000 nonprofits across the country. Since 1994, more than 634,000 Americans have provided more than 775 million hours of service to their communities and country through AmeriCorps. Interested individuals can learn about available opportunities and apply online by visiting www.AmeriCorps.gov.

Established in 1992 and hosted at Western Washington University, Washington Campus Compact has 35 collegiate members throughout the state of Washington. WACC is 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. WACC is an affiliate state office of Campus Compact, a national organization comprised of more than 1,100 institutions committed to the civic and public purposes of higher education.