



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

**For immediate release:**  
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### **Virginia AmeriCorps Programs Ready to Serve**

*AmeriCorps swearing in ceremony Oct. 9 kicks off year of volunteer service*

**Abingdon, Va.** – Interviews and photo opportunities are available for the following event:

**WHO:**

- Senator Phillip P. Puckett, District 38 of Virginia
- Governor's Advisory Board on National and Community Service
- AmeriCorps members and staff

**WHAT:** Virginians ready to serve their communities as AmeriCorps members will be sworn in during a ceremony at the Southwest 4-H Educational Center. The ceremony is held each fall to introduce new AmeriCorps members embarking on a year of service to the Commonwealth.

Virginia AmeriCorps members who were nominated for the third annual Robert E. Wone Award for Exemplary Service will be honored at the ceremony. The award was established in memory of Robert E. Wone, a former member of the Virginia Governor's Commission on Community and National Service (2002-06). The recognition is presented to an AmeriCorps member who has exhibited outstanding civic engagement and community service.

**WHERE:** Southwest 4-H Educational Center  
Dickenson Conference Center  
25236 Hillman Highway  
Abingdon, VA 24210

WHEN: Friday, Oct. 9, 2009  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

WHY: AmeriCorps is a network of service programs connecting more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

AmeriCorps members receive an education stipend of up to \$5,350 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Since 1994, more than **7,300** Virginia residents have qualified for AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than **\$25,400,000**.

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*Editor's Note: For more information on AmeriCorps programs in Virginia, visit [www.vaservice.org](http://www.vaservice.org). To arrange interviews, contact Carla Harris at (804) 726-7107 or Kimberly Brown at (804) 726-7069.*