



college forward

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AmeriCorps Members Pledge a Year to Serving Austin Community

AUSTIN, Texas — This Friday, 30 College Forward AmeriCorps members will join over 100 members from other Austin organizations in pledging a year of their lives to service. The annual Austin AmeriCorps swearing-in ceremony marks the beginning of a new year of national service in the capital city and honors the leaders who volunteer their time to help Central Texas address critical issues in education, the environment, homelessness and housing, and poverty. In return for their service, AmeriCorps members receive a modest living stipend and an education award that can be used for tuition or student loans.

WHO: Over 150 new members from Austin's AmeriCorps projects: 4-H Capital, ACEE (AmeriCorps for Community Engagement and Education), American Youth Works, Capitol Area Food Bank, Catholics Charities of Central Texas, College Forward, the Go Center Initiative, Goodwill Industries, Habitat for Humanity, and Keep Austin Housed.

The event features **Heather McKissick**, President of Leadership Austin, as keynote speaker. Other guest speakers include **Rosa Moreno-Mahoney**, Associate Director of Service and Volunteerism at the OneStar Foundation, state representative **Elliott Naishtat**, and current and former AmeriCorps members.

WHAT: A swearing-in ceremony to officially welcome AmeriCorps members to their program year, generate enthusiasm about the critical importance of their work, and make a public pronouncement of their pledge of service.

WHEN: Friday, October 3, 2008, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: South steps of the State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin, Texas

FURTHER DETAILS: Contact Amelia Koford, Public Relations Coordinator at College Forward, at 512-452-4800 or akoford@collegeforward.org. Information on AmeriCorps is at www.americorps.org, and details about Austin AmeriCorps programs are at www.austinamericorps.org.

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