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Making a Local Impact through National Service
How One Local AmeriCorps Member Will "Get Things Done"

AUSTIN, TX – September 15, 2006 – Talia Carroll is one of 150 AmeriCorps volunteers who will pledge one year of her life to strengthen the Austin community this Friday on the south steps of the State Capitol. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma with her M.Ed. in Adult and Higher Education, Talia sought an "opportunity to gain experience and have fun doing it." What attracted her to national service, she says, was that her position in Austin offered "so much freedom to explore and implement new ideas" that will make a significant impact on the community.

As College Retention Coordinator for College Forward, an Austin-based AmeriCorps project committed to making higher education available to low-income students, Talia works closely with students to ensure their success in college. The year-long AmeriCorps position was the perfect fit for Talia, who describes herself as a "young, economically-disadvantaged person who wanted desperately to attend and succeed in college."

"I look forward to the relationships that I will be able to build with students," Talia says. "It really is an honor to work with such an organization."

At the swearing-in ceremony, AmeriCorps members will confirm their commitment to one of the five Central Texas AmeriCorps programs: Communities in Schools, Front Steps, Travis County 4-H CAPITAL, College Forward, and AmeriCorps for Community Engagement and Education. After fulfilling a year of service, AmeriCorps members will receive an education award that can be used for college tuition or student loans.

Over the past 10 years, local AmeriCorps programs have leveraged more than \$34 million in local and federal funds and have served over 2 million hours in the Austin community.

WHO: AmeriCorps members at Communities In Schools-Central Texas, UT- AmeriCorps for Community Engagement and Education (ACEE), College Forward, Front Steps-Keeping Austin Housed, and the Travis County 4-H Capital.

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

WHEN: Friday, September 15, 2006
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

WHERE: South steps of the State Capitol, Austin, Texas followed by a reception on the Capitol lawn

DETAILS

Guest speakers include State Representative **Elliott Naishtat**; **Peter Frumkin**, Professor of Public Affairs and Director of the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service at the LBJ School; **Rosa Moreno-Mahoney**, Manager of the OneStar Foundation's National Service Initiative, and current AmeriCorps members.