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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 2014

No. 14-025

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Alaska Joins the Nationwide AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary

First Lady Sandy Parnell will lead the AmeriCorps pledge ceremony, taking place 6:00 PM on September 12th at the Loussac Library, Wilda Marsten Theatre, 3600 Denali St., Anchorage, Alaska. Alaska's ceremony will include returning and current AmeriCorps, VISTA and Peace Corps members.

The ceremony is part of a nationwide, simultaneous swearing-in of AmeriCorps members taking place in every state on the same day. At 11:30 am EST, AmeriCorps members from coast to coast will take the AmeriCorps pledge, launching a new service year for 75,000 AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps has a long history of bipartisan presidential support, from the first national service legislation in 1990, to the creation of AmeriCorps in 1993, to the increase in AmeriCorps by 50 percent after the September 11th attacks.

"Every day, in communities across Alaska, AmeriCorps members are getting things done to make our state stronger and better," said Paula Pawlowski, Executive Director of Serve Alaska. "We are proud of the extraordinary accomplishments of Alaska's AmeriCorps members over the past 20 years, and proud of their record of service."

"Building on Alaska's strong tradition of neighbor helping neighbor, AmeriCorps members have improved countless lives across Alaska over the past 20 years," said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National Service, the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps.

Since 1994, nearly 4000 AmeriCorps members have served in Alaska, providing almost five million hours of service resulting in over \$10 million in SEGAL AMERICORPS Education Scholarships to help pay for college or pay back student loans or continuing education. While they serve others, AmeriCorps members expand opportunity for themselves - gaining skills, experience, and education support to help jumpstart their careers.