

AMERICORPS PROMISE FELLOWS

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows: An Innovative Model for Service

Partnerships are central to the work of Minnesota Alliance With Youth (The Alliance)—partnerships between youth and adults; between community organizations and schools; between local partners and statewide partners. In the current economy, many of those partnerships lack the human capital and resources to address the needs of youth. The Alliance provides a cost-effective solution to meet those challenges with the services of an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows partner with schools and community organizations to deliver the fundamental resources proven to ensure that youth succeed, the Five Promises: Caring Adults, Safe Places, A Healthy Start, Effective Education and Opportunities to Help Others. In addition, the Promise Fellows:

- ▶ Provide opportunities for youth engagement in school and the community.
- ▶ Increase youth voice in programs and in decision-making with adults.
- ▶ Promote academic success and graduation/school completion.



Adults in Promise Fellow communities have also mobilized to volunteer and support the efforts of young people to create change in their communities. In the past four years alone:

- 17,000 youth volunteers served over 112,000 hours of service.
- 11,000 adult volunteers served 146,000 hours.
- 60% of youth participating in Alliance programs increased their GPA and show improvement in attendance, a key indicator of academic success.

In rural, suburban and urban settings across the state, AmeriCorps Promise Fellows organize and manage tutoring, mentoring, service-learning and leadership opportunities for youth, particularly those facing the academic achievement and civic engagement gaps. In the past 12 years, 400 Fellows have served over 140,000 youth in more than 300 communities. Examples of Fellows' work with youth include: facilitating 200 Global Youth Service Day Projects, establishing Youth Advisory Councils, implementing peer tutoring programs that help younger students in reading and math, designing Mayoral Debates for a small town election, and initiating Hip Hop Peer Education Clubs.

Now, more than ever, citizens across Minnesota are heeding the call to serve their communities in productive and life-transforming ways. As one Fellow explained, "Due to challenging family circumstances, I grew up without the regular support of my parents. Two Promise Fellows served at my school and connected me to opportunities for service and leadership that I never knew existed. If they hadn't shown me a path, I wouldn't be where I am now. Their service inspired me to serve."

For more information about serving as an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow or becoming a host site, visit www.mnyouth.net.

The AmeriCorps Promise Fellow initiative is made possible through a partnership between Minnesota Alliance With Youth, ServeMinnesota, and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

