



PEACE CORPS  
*Office of Press Relations*

pressoffice@peacecorps.gov  
www.peacecorps.gov  
202.692.2230

Contact: Elizabeth Chamberlain, Public Affairs Specialist  
774.330.9200 | [echamberlain@peacecorps.gov](mailto:echamberlain@peacecorps.gov)

**\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL FEBRUARY 11\*\***

**Boston University Among Peace Corps' Top Volunteer-Producing Colleges & Universities in 2014**

**NEW YORK, N.Y., Feb. 11, 2014** – The Peace Corps today released the 2014 rankings of the top volunteer-producing colleges and universities across the country. This year, Boston University ranked No. 25 among large schools, with 35 undergraduate alumni currently volunteering worldwide. In 2013, BU ranked No. 19.

Boston University alumni are currently serving as volunteers in Botswana, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kyrgyz Republic, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Micronesia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda and Ukraine. They work in areas including agriculture, education, environment, health and community economic development.

“The same passion that launched the Peace Corps more than 50 years ago fuels progress in developing countries today thanks to the leadership and creativity that college graduates bring to their Peace Corps service,” Peace Corps Acting Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet said. “The unique Peace Corps experience helps recent graduates cultivate highly sought-after skills that will launch their careers in today’s global economy.”

Since the first days of the Peace Corps, 1,375 alumni from Boston University have traveled abroad to serve as volunteers.

“Boston University has an incredible study abroad program and I took advantage of that. My professors challenged me to think critically and provided me with incredible in-field training,” said BU alumnus Patrick McGettigan, who recently completed his Peace Corps service in Mozambique.

“On a community level, I worked hard to create changes in the community and instill a sense of responsibility about the marine environment, specifically through conservation-based literature and an annual Ocean Festival. More than anything I am amazed to see how my community has made a difference in me.”

Other Boston area schools ranked as Peace Corps' 2014 Top Colleges, including Boston College, which was No. 8 among medium schools; Tufts University, which was No. 9 among medium schools; and Brandeis University, which ranked No. 14 among small schools nationwide. Also, in 2013, the greater Boston metropolitan area ranked No. 7 nationwide for the highest number of Peace Corps volunteers; 170 currently-serving volunteers were from the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy area.

Service in the Peace Corps is a life-defining, hands-on leadership experience that offers volunteers the

opportunity to travel to the farthest corners of the world and make a lasting difference in the lives of others. Peace Corps volunteers live and work at the community level and promote a better understanding between Americans and the people they serve, while at the same time becoming global citizens.

When they return home, volunteers bring knowledge and experiences that give them a competitive edge for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs and advanced educational opportunities. They give back to their own communities and enrich the lives of those around them, helping to strengthen international ties and increase our country's global competitiveness.

The Peace Corps has eight regional recruitment offices across the United States that work closely with prospective volunteers to ensure that all Americans who want to serve have the opportunity to do so. The Northeast regional recruitment office serves Boston University, and Peace Corps recruiters are based throughout the region. Find the recruitment office near you by visiting the Peace Corps website [here](#).

The Peace Corps ranks the top volunteer-producing colleges and universities annually according to the size of the student body. Below find the top five colleges and universities in each category and the number of alumni currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers.

Large Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

*More than 15,000 undergraduates*

- |                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| 1. University of Wisconsin-Madison | 90 |
| 2. University of Washington        | 85 |
| 2. University of Florida           | 85 |
| 4. The Ohio State University       | 83 |
| 5. University of Michigan          | 81 |

Medium Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

*Between 5,000 and 15,000 undergraduates*

- |                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Western Washington University    | 65 |
| 2. University of Virginia           | 44 |
| 3. American University              | 43 |
| 4. The George Washington University | 41 |
| 5. Cornell University               | 29 |
| 5. The University of Vermont        | 29 |

Small Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

*Less than 5,000 undergraduates*

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Gonzaga University                                 | 22 |
| 2. SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry | 17 |
| 3. Carleton College                                   | 16 |
| 3. Macalester College                                 | 16 |
| 3. Pacific Lutheran University                        | 16 |

Graduate Schools – Total Volunteers:

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. University of Denver                | 23 |
| 2. University of Washington            | 20 |
| 2. Tulane University                   | 20 |
| 4. University of Florida               | 17 |
| 5. University of Pittsburgh            | 13 |
| 5. University of Minnesota Twin Cities | 13 |

- |                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| 5. University of South Florida       | 13 |
| 5. The University of Texas at Austin | 13 |

Historical, Since 1961 – Total Volunteers:

- |                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. University of California, Berkeley | 3,576 |
| 2. University of Wisconsin-Madison    | 3,112 |
| 3. University of Washington           | 2,840 |
| 4. University of Michigan             | 2,556 |
| 5. University of Colorado Boulder     | 2,385 |

*\*Rankings are calculated based on fiscal year 2013 data as of September 30, 2013, as self-reported by Peace Corps volunteers.*

Find the complete 2014 rankings of the top 25 schools in each undergraduate category [here](#). To view the Peace Corps’ 2014 Top Colleges infographic, visit <http://files.peacecorps.gov/images/news/releases/TC2014Infographic.pdf>.

A list of the 2013 Top Colleges and Universities can be found [here](#).

About the Peace Corps: *As the preeminent international service organization of the United States, the Peace Corps sends Americans abroad to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Peace Corps volunteers work at the grassroots level with local governments, schools, communities, small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. When they return home, volunteers bring their knowledge and experiences – and a global outlook – back to the United States that enriches the lives of those around them. President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961 to foster a better understanding among Americans and people of other countries. Since then, more than 215,000 Americans of all ages have served in 139 countries worldwide. Visit [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov) to learn more.*

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