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

*Wesleyan returns to the national rankings after three-year absence*

**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, Wesleyan ranked No. 14 among small schools, with 12 alumni currently volunteering worldwide.

Wesleyan, which is the only educational institution in Connecticut included in this year's national rankings, had not been on the list since 2011.

Wesleyan alumni currently serve as volunteers in Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Vanuatu and Zambia. They work in sectors including business, education, English and health.

“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, 242 alumni from Wesleyan have traveled abroad to serve as volunteers.

“I made a difference in my Peace Corps community by being a figure of hope for people,” said Sherry Sybertz, Wesleyan alumna who recently completed her Peace Corps service in Senegal. “Because of my connections with Peace Corps opportunities, plus other local grants, I have shown people how they can get the resources they need to complete projects.”

Fellow alumna Carol Lindsay served as a volunteer in Nicaragua. “I taught high school English for 10 years, went to law school, and practiced law for 25 years,” she stated. “Peace Corps service had been a dream since I was a teenager and so, upon retirement, I applied and served in Nicaragua for 2 years, returning just this past November.

“The Wesleyan environment that taught me flexibility, the importance of keeping an open mindset, and using every resource I can to solve a challenge proved incredibly useful in my Peace Corps service,” added Baker Woods, an alumna who served in Paraguay.

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 Wesleyan, 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<br>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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