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CONTACT: Bruno Veselic
Public Affairs, West Coast Region
310.356.1106 Direct | 310.999.1667 Cell
bveselic@peacecorps.gov

Six University of California Campuses Place on Peace Corps' 2013 Top Colleges Rankings

Berkeley and Los Angeles Campuses Take Top Spot Among California Schools; Santa Barbara, San Diego, Davis and Santa Cruz Rank in Top 25

WASHINGTON, February 5, 2013 – This year, the University of California, Berkeley (Cal), and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), tie for the top spot among large California schools on Peace Corps' 2013 Top Colleges, ranking No. 6 nationally. The annual list recognizes the highest volunteer-producing colleges and universities for small, medium, large and graduate institutions. There are currently 85 undergraduate alumni each from Cal and UCLA serving overseas.

"Every year, graduates of colleges and universities across the United States are making a difference in communities overseas through Peace Corps service," said Peace Corps Acting Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet. "As a result of the top-notch education they receive, these graduates are well prepared for the challenge of international service. They become leaders in their host communities and carry the spirit of service and leadership back with them when they return home."

Collectively, the University of California (UC) system produced 489 currently-serving volunteers. In total, six UC campuses are ranked on the list of top 25 large universities, taking all five of the top spots for California schools. The state's top volunteer-producing universities are ranked as follows:

RANK	SCHOOL	NATIONAL RANK	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS
1	University of California, Berkeley	6	85
1	University of California, Los Angeles	6	85
3	University of California, Santa Barbara	10	76
4	University of California, San Diego	13	70
5	University of California, Davis	17	60
5	University of California, Santa Cruz	17	60

Of the six UC campuses ranked in the top 25 large undergraduate institutions, four improved their national ranking from the previous year: Cal from No. 9, UC Santa Barbara from No. 16, UC Davis from No. 23 and UC Santa Cruz from No. 24. Additionally, UCLA retained its No. 6 ranking from the previous year.

"Peace Corps announces Top Colleges annually to recognize the schools that contribute the most alumni who are making a difference overseas through volunteer service," said Peace Corps West Coast Regional Manager Janet Allen. "We thank and congratulate each of these University of California campuses as one of the 23 universities from the West Coast producing globally-minded leaders who turn idealism into action as Peace Corps volunteers."

Currently, more than 8,000 volunteers are working with communities in 76 host countries on projects related to agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health and youth development.

During Peace Corps service, college graduates make a difference in communities overseas. Volunteers return home as global citizens with cross-cultural, leadership, language, teaching and community development skills that position them for advanced education and professional opportunities in today's global job market. Ninety percent of volunteer positions require a bachelor's degree. Americans with backgrounds in agriculture, environment, teaching English as a second language, and other technical or language skills related to Peace Corps assignment areas are encouraged to apply for service one year in advance of their target departure date. The next application deadline is February 28, 2013.

The Peace Corps ranks Top Colleges annually according to the size of the student body. Small schools have less than 5,000 undergraduates, medium-sized schools have between 5,000 and 15,000 undergraduates and large schools have more than 15,000 undergraduates. Rankings are calculated based on fiscal year 2012 data as of September 30, 2012 as self-reported by Peace Corps volunteers.

The following are the top five colleges and universities in each undergraduate category and the number of undergraduate alumni currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers:

LARGE COLLEGES:	VOLUNTEER NUMBER:
1. University of Washington	107
1. University of Florida	107
3. University of Wisconsin-Madison	103
4. University of Colorado Boulder	93
4. University of Michigan	93

MEDIUM COLLEGES:	VOLUNTEER NUMBER:
1. Western Washington University	73
2. American University	55
3. The George Washington University	53
4. Cornell University	40
5. The University of Vermont	37

SMALL COLLEGES:	VOLUNTEER NUMBER:
1. Gonzaga University	24
2. St. Olaf College	22
3. University of Mary Washington	21
4. Oberlin College & Conservatory	20
5. Seattle University	19

Click here for a full list of the Peace Corps 2013 Top Colleges.

About the Peace Corps: *Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps by executive order on March 1, 1961, more than 210,000 Americans have served in 139 host countries. Today, 8,073 volunteers are working with local communities in 76 host countries in agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health and youth in development. Peace Corps volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment and the agency's mission is to promote world peace and friendship and a better understanding between Americans and people of other countries. Visit www.peacecorps.gov for more information.*

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