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University of Mary Washington Ranks 3rd on Peace Corps' List of Top Volunteer-Producing Schools

WASHINGTON, DC, Feb. 5, 2013 – The University of Mary Washington ranks 3rd on Peace Corps' list of 25 top volunteer-producing colleges in the small school category with 21 undergraduate alumni currently serving as volunteers overseas. This marks the first year since 2010 that the university has not held the first place amongst small schools. Since Peace Corps' inception, 230 Mary Washington alumni have served in the Peace Corps.

“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.”

“I learned so much about myself and about the world during my time at Mary Washington, and I use that education all the time here,” said Bethany Farrell, (B.A. 2011, theatre and political science) a Peace Corps youth development volunteer in Morocco. “There are so many tolerant, respectful, and open-minded people at Mary Wash, and I try to demonstrate those qualities each and every day of my service.”

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. To see the full list of colleges and universities on the Peace Corps' Top College list, visit the website [here](#).

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 Feb. 28, 2013.

To find out more about how you too can make a difference in Peace Corps, contact Peace Corps recruiter and returned Peace Corps volunteer, Alyson McReynolds. She can be reached directly at: amcreynolds@peacecorps.gov.

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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