



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **University of Montana Climbs Two Spots On 2013 Peace Corps Top Colleges**

*UM Ranks No.12 on Peace Corps Medium Colleges and Universities List*

**Washington, February 5, 2013** – This year, University of Montana ranks No.12 on Peace Corps' 2013 Top Colleges for medium schools. The annual list recognizes the highest volunteer-producing colleges and universities for small, medium, large and graduate institutions. There are currently 27 undergraduate alumni from UM serving overseas. UM moved up two spots this year tying Atlanta's Emory University and The University of New Hampshire for the No.12 spot.

“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.”

Montana State University also made the list, but found itself in the No.16 spot. Despite the four place difference MSU produced only two less volunteers than UM. The top spot in the medium category went to Western Washington University who produced 73 volunteers, 18 more than the second place American University.

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

Recent UM graduate Nathaniel Boise says the universities International Study Abroad program best prepared him for his Peace Corps service.

“Nepal is a wonderful country full of great and beautiful people,” said Boise, who is one of the first volunteers to return to the country of Nepal. “This was the best decision I have ever made.”

\*Here a link to a national release of all the Top College stats to prepare releases, it will not be live until the embargo is lifted. <http://files.peacecorps.gov/multimedia/pdf/stats/schools2013.pdf>.

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:

<u>LARGE COLLEGES:</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER NUMBER:</u>
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

<u>MEDIUM COLLEGES:</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER NUMBER:</u>
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

<u>SMALL COLLEGES:</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER NUMBER:</u>
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](http://www.peacecorps.gov) for more information.*

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