



# National Service Training Conference

## SOUTHWEST | PACIFIC



# The AmeriCorps Collaborative Model

Creating a Community of National Service

# Presenters



**Jacquee Kurdas**



**John Stovall**



# Session Outcomes



At the end of this workshop, program staff should:

1. Understand the importance of community for AmeriCorps retention
2. Have learned how to strengthen an existing network of members in a region
3. Know how to catalyze an AmeriCorps Collaborative organization





# Member Engagement



# Challenges

# Successes

National Service Training Conference  
SOUTHWEST | PACIFIC



Corporation for  
NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE 

# Member Retention



# Challenges

# Successes



# The AmeriCorps Collaborative Model

- West Michigan AmeriCorps Collaborative
- Seattle AmeriCorps Collaborative
- Future iterations





# Seattle AmeriCorps Collaborative

## What do we do?



National Service Training Conference  
SOUTHWEST | PACIFIC



Corporation for  
NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE

## How is this different from AmeriCorps Alums?

- Not exclusive to alumni, but can incorporate alumni
- Operated and sustained by current members
- Mirrors the needs of current members
  - Affordable housing, living on stipend, preparation for life after AmeriCorps, building community of service members, identifying trainings and professional development opportunities
- Grassroots and geographically-focused





# The Essence of the Collaborative Model



- Leadership opportunity
- Board led by all AmeriCorps members/ recent alumni
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Affordable Housing Opportunities
- Free stuff/ food
- Support Network
- Career Fair and Stipend Life
- Social Capital
- Innovation, Partnership – Mirrors the values of the community
- Not bound by some government restrictions
- Major benefit to program staff



# Small Group Discussion

## Strategies/Priorities for a strong AmeriCorps Community...

- In a city?
- In a rural area?
- In a suburban area?



# How Does an AmeriCorps Collaborative Get Created?

1. Current member/recent alum takes the lead
2. Needs Assessment – Surveys, questionnaires identifying AmeriCorps challenges, needs, desires
3. Determine Buy-In – confirmation from members, programs, sponsor orgs, plus affirmed support from Service Commission





## (Continued)

4. Catalyst\*\*\* -- Key role for Service Commission
5. First event – share the vision, invite engagement, initiate the community
6. Develop organization – leaders, structure, infrastructure, mission/vision, constitution, bylaws
7. Enact mission



# Being a Catalyst for an AmeriCorps Collaborative



- Identify members who stand out
- Identify start-up grant
- Connections/sponsors – who has your shared vision?
- Disseminating information among members and programs
- Advisory board member from state service commission
- Assessing Need and Buy-in – Surveys, questionnaires
- Share the Tool-Kit with Members
- Others?



## Small Group Work – Taking the next steps







# THANK YOU!

National Service Training Conference  
SOUTHWEST | PACIFIC



Corporation for  
NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE 

# Contact Us



Email: [seattleaccollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:seattleaccollaborative@gmail.com)

Website: [www.seattleamericorps.org](http://www.seattleamericorps.org)

Facebook: "Seattle AmeriCorps Collaborative"

Twitter: @seattleamericorps

John Stovall: [john.reetz.stovall@gmail.com](mailto:john.reetz.stovall@gmail.com)

Jacquee Kurdas: [jacqueekurdas@gmail.com](mailto:jacqueekurdas@gmail.com)

