



# Media Release

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Contact:

**Amy Webb, Director of Communications  
(501) 682-8650**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **State Tutoring, Teacher Programs Receive AmeriCorps Funding**

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has awarded two AmeriCorps grants to programs belonging to Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative (SEARK), a non-profit organization in Monticello. AR Smart Start Tutoring received \$458,680 and the Arkansas AmeriCorps Future Teacher Initiative received \$12,000.

The grants are a portion of \$2,423,853 awarded to AmeriCorps programs in Arkansas as part of 2014 AmeriCorps State and National grant competition. Three other programs in Arkansas were awarded funding. The funds will be distributed through the Arkansas Service Commission, part of the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Community Service and Non-Profit Support.

The funding to the tutoring program will support the work of 73 AmeriCorps members. They will provide comprehensive support to address the educational needs of elementary schools that do not have the resources to provide additional tutoring to youth who may need it. The program will focus on literacy and math competency, parental involvement, volunteer engagement and community service.

“We are ecstatic to know there will be another program year to provide much needed tutoring services to at-risk elementary students in Southeast Arkansas,” said Jenny Satterlee, program director for AR Smart Start Tutoring.

The funding for the teacher initiative will provide tutoring to at-risk preschool students in rural counties throughout Arkansas with the goal of improving their kindergarten readiness.

“We are absolutely thrilled that AmeriCorps members will be able to continue to make a difference in the lives of pre-school students in Arkansas,” said Director Kim Pesaresi.

In addition to the grant funding, CNCS will make available \$290,666 in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards for the AmeriCorps members funded by this grant. After completing a full term of service, AmeriCorps members receive a financial award that they can use to pay for college or to pay off student loans.

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Every day in communities across America, AmeriCorps members are making a powerful impact on the most critical issues facing our nation. Whether improving schools, fighting poverty, rebuilding after disasters, providing health services, preserving the environment, or supporting veterans and military families, AmeriCorps members are getting things done. Since the program's inception, more than 830,000 men and women have taken the AmeriCorps pledge, serving more than one billion hours and improving the lives of countless Americans. These funds will support the 20th anniversary class of AmeriCorps members.