



## Media Release

---

Contact:

Mary Bea Gross, Arkansas Service Commission  
501-682-6724

**For Immediate Release**

October 18, 2011

### **Governor Beebe to highlight AmeriCorps ceremony in Little Rock**

Governor Mike Beebe will serve as the keynote speaker as the Arkansas Service Commission hosts the Seventeenth Annual AmeriCorps Opening Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 21, 2011 at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Drive in Little Rock.

The Opening Ceremony is held each year to recognize the service AmeriCorps members performed throughout the state. These members come from many service organizations, including AmeriCorps\*State programs, VISTA, Foster Grandparents, RSVP, City Year and Goodwill International. The members dedicate a year or more of their lives in service to their communities and country. More than 400 AmeriCorps members, Learn and Serve, Senior Corps, City Year, and VISTA members as well as representatives of nonprofits and volunteer organizations are expected to attend.

During the ceremony, Arkansas Service Commission Chairman Tim Reeves will present the Fourth Annual J. C. Babbs Award for Outstanding Achievement of a past or present AmeriCorps\*State member. In addition, the Corporation for National and Community Service State Office will present an Outstanding Service Award. The ceremony will conclude with the swearing in of the AmeriCorps members who will serve in various projects throughout Arkansas during the 2011-2012 service term.

This year there are 15 AmeriCorps\*State programs with 475 members in Arkansas, which brings \$2,795,475 in federal funds into the state. Arkansas' AmeriCorps members provide adult and child literacy tutoring; in-school translation and family support services for Spanish-speaking families; low cost loans and energy retrofits for low to middle income homes throughout the state;

-more-

equal access to justice in civil legal matters for low income individuals; education and promotion of healthier lifestyle choices in school age children; residential mentoring and relationship development for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders; and prescription drug assistance in the Delta region.

A unit of the Arkansas Department of Human Services' Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support, the Arkansas Service Commission serves as the conduit for federal funds from the Corporation for National and Community Services to AmeriCorps\*State programs in Arkansas. The Arkansas Service Commission is composed of 25 members from across the state appointed by Arkansas' Governors to oversee these funds.

*Special Accommodations Upon Request.*

*Sign Language Interpreter on Site.*