



Press Release

Peace Corps Graduate Schools Receive Presidential Acclaim

Fifty graduate schools associated with the Peace Corps placed on the annual President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, announced in March. Peace Corps Master's International and Fellows/USA colleges and universities received acclaim for the contributions they and their students make to local communities and to the nation as a whole.

Fully nine schools offering Peace Corps graduate programs were lauded on the Honor Roll with Distinction; specifically, California State University–Sacramento, Colorado State University, Duquesne University, Fordham University, Michigan State University, Tulane University, University of Georgia, University of Michigan, and University of Pennsylvania.

“We’re deeply gratified to see more than half of our graduate programs appearing on the President’s Community Service Honor Roll,” said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams. “Through Peace Corps graduate programs, dedicated Americans can give to communities in the United States and abroad, and they can find the time and resources for graduate school, too.”

Through its Master’s International and Fellows/USA programs, the Peace Corps offers a variety of graduate school initiatives across the country which provide university credit or tuition incentives to Peace Corps volunteers. Currently, the Peace Corps partners with graduate programs at 94 institutions of higher learning in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

The Master’s International program began at Rutgers University–Camden in 1987 and combines Peace Corps service with master’s degree studies. Participating graduate students typically finish one year of study at their university before serving 27 months abroad with the Peace Corps. Upon their return, they then complete any requirements necessary for graduation. Further information on Master’s International is available at www.peacecorps.gov/masters.

Fellows/USA started in 1985 at Teachers College, Columbia University and celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The program is specifically reserved for students who have already completed their tenure abroad with the Peace Corps. In a special feature of this program, participating students apply the experience they have gleaned as Peace Corps volunteers to internships in underserved U.S. communities. More details can be found at www.peacecorps.gov/fellows.

As Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, its service legacy continues to promote peace and friendship around the world with 7,671 volunteers serving in 76 host countries. Historically, nearly 200,000 Americans have served with the Peace Corps to promote a better understanding between Americans and the people of 139 host countries. Peace Corps volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment. To learn more about the Peace Corps, please visit our website: www.peacecorps.gov.