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Mesa State Receives National Recognition for Community Service, Named to President's Honor Roll

Grand Junction, CO – Mesa State College has been named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Mesa State students contributed more than 300,000 hours of service valued at more than \$6.2 million. This is the fourth consecutive year Mesa State has been recognized for its students' service to the community.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual Honor Roll award, recognized more than 700 colleges and universities for their impact on issues from poverty and homelessness to environmental justice. On campuses across the country, thousands of students joined their faculty to develop innovative programs and projects to meet local needs using the skills gained in their classrooms. Business students served as consultants to budget-strapped nonprofits and businesses, law students volunteered at legal clinics, and dozens of others organized anti-hunger campaigns.

“Congratulations to Mesa State and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities,” said Patrick Corvington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. “Our nation's students are a critical part of the equation and vital to our efforts to tackle the most persistent challenges we face. They have achieved impactful results and demonstrated the value of putting knowledge into practice to help renew America through service.”

The Honor Roll includes six colleges and universities that are recognized as Presidential Awardees, with an additional 115 named to the Distinction List and 621 schools named as Honor Roll members. Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses. [Click here](#) for a full list of Honor Roll recipients.

“We are very proud of our students and this is just one example of the benefits having this college and these students in this community provide,” said Mesa State President Tim Foster.

“It also speaks very well of our fine faculty and their commitment to ensuring our students get relevant, hands-on learning opportunities.”

For the 2009 Honor Roll, 2,061 MSC students engaged in community service providing 307,560 hours of service. The special focus area for the 2009 Honor Roll was Youth From Disadvantaged Circumstances. Of the 2,061 students who engaged in community service, 386 were involved in service in the special focus area and provided 142,414 hours of community service to youth from disadvantaged circumstances. The 2009 Honor Roll covers the period from July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Using the dollar estimate of volunteer time by the Independent Sector, this amounts to \$6,228,090 worth of services.

There are three categories of recognition for this program: Honor Roll Member; Honor Roll with Distinction Member; Presidential Awardees (limited to 6 institutions). For the past three years Mesa State was an Honor Roll Member. This year, it moved up to Honor Roll with Distinction Member.

Mesa State is one of only six Colorado institutions named to the Honor Roll this year. Colorado State University was named to the Distinction Honor Roll and regular Honor Roll Members include Colorado Christian University, Johnson & Wales University, United States Air Force Academy, and the University of Denver.

College students make a significant contribution to the volunteer sector; in 2009, 3.16 million students performed more than 300 million hours of service, according to the Volunteering in America study released by the Corporation. Each year, the Corporation invests more than \$150 million in fostering a culture of service on college campuses through grants awarded by its programs; the education awards that AmeriCorps members receive at the conclusion of their term of service to pay for college; and through support of training, research, recognition, and other initiatives to spur college service.

The Corporation oversees the Honor Roll in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact and the American Council on Education.

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The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more five million Americans in service through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, *United We Serve*. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.