

Service

TO OUR
COUNTRY

VOLUME I
ISSUE I

AmeriCorps Members at the first Southern California Mentor Training in Santa Ana.



Kern County
**Superintendent
of Schools**
Office of Christine Lizardi Frazier
...advocates for children

The
California
Endowment



Building Healthy Communities/Youth AmeriCorps

Martin Luther King Day: A Day On, Not A Day Off!

Dr. Martin King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" Each year, Americans across the country answer that question by coming together on the King Holiday to serve their neighbors and communities. MLK Day of Service is part of the United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems.

Building Healthy Communities/Youth AmeriCorps Members implemented a host of

community service events in January 2012. Below is a list of some events:

Fresno: Martin Luther King Murals were painted at three Boys and Girls Club locations during the week of Jan. 9 - 17th. With the support of the community, youth from each Boys and Girls Club site selected artwork to become a mural.

South Sacramento: Martin Luther King Jr. March for the Dream on 01/16/12 at Oak Park. Members worked with mentees and other volunteers to distribute brochures from organizations related to the Building Healthy Communities Initiative.

South Kern: We Have A Dream for a Healthy Community. Members hosted a healthy living fair with a farmers' market, children's activities, entertainment, and resource booths on 01/16/12 at Ollivier

Middle School.

Interested in volunteering at future events? Contact us at 661-636-4487.

For more information on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, please visit mlkday.gov

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What is BHC/Y
AmeriCorps?



2011-12

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools and The California Endowment mobilizes over 70 AmeriCorps mentors for nearly 2,000 youth in ten California communities. Of the youth living in these communities, 65-80% do not feel safe at school. AmeriCorps Members deliver high-quality mentorships to reinforce positive choices and behaviors. In addition, AmeriCorps Members recruit community volunteers to contribute more than 2,000 hours of community service. This is part of the California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities initiative, which represents a 10-year, holistic approach to improve community health and initiate systemic change.

Amy Green at regional training - mentor at Mountain View Middle School



More than a mentor

AmeriCorps Members at Mountain View Middle School (South Kern) went beyond the call of duty for one of their mentees. The group provided a gift basket to a mentee's family during the holiday season.

To build the basket, the Members solicited donations from local businesses including Rite Aid, Apple Market, and County Fair Market. The group was able to gather toys, cosmetics, food, gift certificates, clothing, and more.

The family was overjoyed to receive the basket and the mentee loved the items. Kudos to the Members for supporting each other and the families in South Kern!

January - National Mentor Month

Created in 2002 by the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, National Mentoring Month focuses national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us - individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits - can work together to increase the number of mentors to assure brighter futures for our young people.

As in years past, the Harvard School of Public Health is working with the national media to heighten awareness of mentoring and prompt individuals to volunteer to mentor. At the same time, MENTOR is working with the NMM campaign's local

partners, who are organizing special NMM events in their communities with numerous partners, including their local media. These events help interested adults learn how to turn their concern for young people in direct action by becoming mentors. The Corporation for National and Community Service, a NMM partner since 2006, promotes the month to its vast network of Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America grantees and highlights mentoring during its annual Martin Luther King Day of Service event.

NMM celebrates mentoring and the positive effect it can have on young lives. Its goals are to:

- Raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms
- Recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have waiting lists of young people.
- Promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring.

Each year since its launch, NMM has enjoyed the strong support of the U.S. President and members of Congress. Additional prominent individuals who have participated in the campaign include: Maya Angelou, former President Bill Clinton, Clint Eastwood, Senator John McCain, Quincy Jones, General Colin L. Powell, Cal Ripken, Jr., Bill Russell, and Usher.

Adopted from the National Mentoring Month website

5 Great Mentor Tips

Simple tips to help you be a better mentor.

1. Demonstrate to your mentee that you are consistent, dependable, and trustworthy.

Be on time. Be responsible. Follow through on commitments.

2. Value the diverse economic, cultural, and religious traits of your mentee.

Every mentee is unique!

3. Maintain a cheerful and positive attitude toward your mentee.

Eyes are always watching...Remember to smile!

4. Be a sympathetic listener, not a psychologist.

Sometimes we need to be reminded.

5. Be an adviser, not a preacher.

Help your mentee make positive decisions on his/her own.



Abraham Ramirez - mentor at Cahulla Desert Academy

National Mentor Month

January is National Mentor Month. Check out

www.nationalmentoringmonth.org

for more information on mentoring and news/events.



2012	jan	feb	mar
<p>We are excited to kick off the new year with some great events!</p> <p><u>January Birthdays:</u> Sary Pang 2nd - Long Beach Lemuel Gary 7th - Fresno Abraham Ramirez - 8th East Coachella Valley Donna Albers - 19th DNATL Sandra Marinero - 21st South Kern Rubi Vallejo - 21st East Oakland Geordee Corpuz - 21st South Sacramento Nicholas Rodirguez - 26th South Kern Ericka Arambula - 29th Long Beach Marilyn Monreal - 29th - East Coachella Valley</p> <p><u>February Birthdays:</u> Claudia Arredondo - 4th South Kern Laquita Smith 16th - Merced Alessandro Broido 18th - DNATL Omar De La Riva 19th - Santa Ana</p> <p><u>March Birthdays:</u> Eva Rodríguez - 3rd - East Coachella Valley</p>	<p>16 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. - National Day of Service, "A Day On, Not A Day Off."</p> <p>20 Regional Mentor Training - Santa Ana</p> <p>27 Regional Mentor Training - Fresno Regional Mentor Training - Sacramento</p>	<p>3 Regional Mentor Training - East Coachella Valley</p> <p>9-10 Friends for Youth Annual Mentor Conference</p>	<p>2 National Read Across America Day</p> <p>10-18 AmeriCorps Week - Theme: AmeriCorps Works</p> <p>31 Cesar Chavez Day of Service</p>

Mentor Spotlight - Yuri Lara

Yuri was born and raised in Orange County. She received her bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkley. Yuri also holds a MFA in Poetry from UC Riverside. Like other poets of color who grew up in marginalized communities, she believes poetry saved her life. Yuri does not have hobbies; she has passions and responsibilities to those passions. She writes, is an Aztec dancer, plays the cajon peruano, and works with female youth artists.

Unlike many AmeriCorps Mentors, Yuri has the opportunity to serve at the high school she attended in Santa Ana. She works with 25 mentees, seeing most of them in their classes. She helps some with behavioral guidance and works with others more uniquely with scheduled appointments of personal reflection.

Yuri's mentor philosophy includes compassion, love, appreciation, and respect. She allows the mentee to figure things out on his/her own. She constantly checks her attitude to make sure she remains positive, open-minded, and fair. When mentees are faced with problems, Yuri facilitates a reflection exercise with this feedback, "challenges are an inevitable part of life.... We need to train ourselves to control our attitudes so we can retain positivity, courage, strength, and internal beauty in the face of adversity."

Mentee Spotlight -

Elizet Lopez

My name is Elizet Lopez. I attend Valley High School and I am part of the mentor/mentee program at this school. This program has helped me in many ways. I was messing up in school, life, and with myself. Having Yuri Lara as a mentor helped me out a lot in school and life wise. My grades went from being Fs to Cs and Bs.

I am getting myself together. As a student, getting a mentor was a great thing. This program has helped me life wise because I have been through a lot and Yuri helped me realize that not everything should be about being negative.

This program is very helpful to many because we get to help out our community as well as ourselves. I was grateful enough to be chosen for this program and it is very helpful to me. In my opinion, it will help many other students out. My gratitude goes to all those people who help out at schools such as Yuri Lara, Tania Aguilar (another AmeriCorps Mentor in Santa Ana), and to this program as well. It has been so much help. It has improved many mentees' behavior in and outside of school.



Elizet Lopez (left) and Yuri Lara (right)

Did you know?

According to a Big Brothers/Sisters 2005 study, mentored youth are 46% less likely to initiate illegal drug use and 52% less likely to skip school. Learn more at www.bbbs.org

We would like to
thank our partners
and sponsors for
their commitment to
our service.

The California Endowment

The Corporation for
National and Community
Service

Tulare County Office of
Education

California School-Age
Consortium

SEED Tech

Transforming Local
Communities

Wild Rivers Community
Foundation

Oakland Unified School
District

Asian Resources Inc.

United Way of Merced
County

HandsOn Central California

California State University,
Long Beach Foundation

Social Advocates for Youth
(SAY) San Diego

KidWorks

Regional Access Project

CaliforniaVolunteers

Get to know MY community...DNATL

Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Lands

Known as "The Gateway to the Redwood Coast," Del Norte County has ancient redwoods reaching hundreds of feet into the sky and pristine rivers flowing freely through the forests and into the magnificent Pacific Ocean. Del Norte County is a place to enjoy the wonders of unspoiled nature and abundant wildlife in diverse habitats. Crescent City - 20 miles south of the Oregon border, serves as the city hub for this local area. It is 1.6 square miles with a population of 7,542.



History:

Two prominent Native American tribes lived in Del Norte County prior to the arrival of foreign settlers. To the south on the Klamath River lived the Yurok tribe and to the north of the Smith River plains lived the Tolowa tribe. Both tribes lived along the rivers and beaches in permanent structures made of redwood planks. Staple foods included fish and acorns.

The towns of Klamath and Crescent City were formed because of the gold rush initially. Later, agriculture, lumbering, and fishing became the pursuit.

Del Norte County is known for its lighthouses. The Battery Point Lighthouse commissioned by an act of Congress in 1855 served until 1965. The Point St. George Lighthouse was brought to service in 1892 and abandoned by the coast guard in 1975. Treacherous seas made docking with the lighthouses difficult.

The Economy:

Del Norte County has a high dependence on public sector employment which accounts for 45 percent of all jobs in the county - well above the statewide average of 15 percent. In addition, the fishing industry, tribal government and casinos are major employers. Del Norte County's unemployment rate of nearly 13 percent is above the statewide average, and one in four families lives below the Federal Poverty Level.

Del Norte County has embarked on an economic development plan - led by the Humboldt Area Foundation - which focuses on building local ideas, businesses, enterprise and micro-enterprise. Strengths within the region are many, including a robust health care delivery system which incorporates prevention and community health.

The People:

With a population of 29,500 and designated as a "frontier" region, Del Norte County has a strong tribal identity, with a Native American population at 7.8 percent - well above the statewide average. Some Native American groups include the Tolowa and the Yurok. According to the US Census non-white Hispanics make-up 64.7% of the population.

Adopted from The California Endowment, City of Crescent City, Explore Del Norte, Smith River Rancheria, Yurok Tribe, Del Norte School, Klamath-Trinity School, Del Norte Historical Society and KRECR websites.

Service Sites:

Del Norte Unified

"Success Starts Here" - District schools have been operating for over 100 years and are proud to focus instruction in the fundamentals as well as creative arts & career preparation.

Klamath-Trinity School District



"Learning for All" - Some core value beliefs of this district include: our children are our greatest natural resource, every person is unique and has equal worth, and education is a shared responsibility.

Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods



Mission - create healthy, sustainable communities through transformational education. Vision -

increase the number of high school and college graduates who are grounded in culture, place, and community.

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