

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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RHODE ISLAND SERVICE ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES THREE NEW COMPETITIVE AMERICORPS GRANT AWARDS AND APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 16, 2008, Providence, RI – Rhode Island Service Alliance (RISA), the state commission for national and community service, held a press conference at **at Mt. Hope Learning Center, 140 Cypress St. in Providence**, to announce new federal grants for three AmeriCorps programs, and appointment of a new Executive Director.

The Service Alliance has been awarded **\$573,668** in new federal grants to fund the following AmeriCorps programs:

Howard R. Swearer Center for Public Service at Brown University/ National College Advising Corps:	\$192,132
Mt. Hope Learning Center/Mt. Hope Corps:	\$204,466
Providence Children's Museum:	\$177,070

These three awards represent a significant share of **only 49 grants totaling \$14,580,446** being awarded nationwide to organizations nominated to participate in a national competition by Governor-appointed state service commissions.

The new grants are in addition to **\$1,182,200** in second-year AmeriCorps funding won in a separate national competition that the Service Alliance expects to award later this month.

Also, Rhode Island Service Alliance Board of Commissioners announced appointment of **Bernie Beaudreau** as the Commission's Executive Director, effective June 1, 2008. Mr. Beaudreau is a former Executive Director of Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Vice President for Development at the Global FoodBanking Network, and Director of Resource and Constituency Development at Oxfam America.

Lt. Governor Roberts, Providence Mayor Cicilline, and Representative Pacheco – long-time supporters of national service programs in Rhode Island who were among the event's attendees – welcomed the news and offered their congratulations to the grant recipients RISA's board and staff, and the Commission's new Executive Director.

Members of Rhode Island's congressional delegation, too, welcomed the news of the new AmeriCorps grants and the appointment of the new Executive Director of the Service Alliance.

"I am pleased that the Rhode Island Service Alliance is receiving this critical federal funding to help these outstanding programs continue to increase education opportunities throughout Rhode Island," said Senator Reed, a member of the Appropriations subcommittee, which oversees funding for AmeriCorps. "These AmeriCorps grants will enable Brown University, Mt. Hope Learning Center, and the Providence Children's Museum to make certain that kids have access to mentoring, after-school, and educational programs. I commend the Rhode Island Service Alliance and these programs for their commitment to improving the lives of young Rhode Islanders and strengthening our communities."

Senator Whitehouse said, "I'm thrilled that these valuable AmeriCorps programs will be able to continue to enrich the communities they serve with the help of these federal grants. We have a very proud tradition of public service here in Rhode Island, and I know that this funding, along with the leadership of Bernie Beaudreau in his new role as Executive Director of RI Service Alliance, will strengthen that tradition."

"The Rhode Island Service Alliance has been a valuable organization for the state of Rhode Island for many years," concurred Congressman Kennedy. "Its dedication and service to the people of our state have helped countless individuals over the years and I am pleased that these funds will extend their helpful reach to include many more. I would also like to congratulate Bernie Beaudreau on his recent appointment as Executive Director; the Alliance will only continue to excel under Bernie's strong leadership. I wish him all the best," added Kennedy.

About AmeriCorps and Rhode Island Service Alliance

AmeriCorps programs funded by the Rhode Island Service Alliance serve low-income Rhode Island children, providing free after-school programs; crucial 1:1 tutoring and mentoring in classrooms and community centers; literacy programming and skills development in both childcare & home care centers; museum programming & teacher professional development in Head Start Centers; standards-based environmental and science education, and college guidance and advising services.

The Rhode Island Service Alliance, a state commission for national and community service, is an independent non-profit organization founded in 1994, which funds transformative service opportunities and promotes a statewide ethic of service and activism. The RI Service Alliance receives both federal and state support to administer AmeriCorps State programs, community-based Learn & Serve America, and other national and community service programs. For more information on the RI Service Alliance and AmeriCorps programs in Rhode Island, visit us at www.riservicealliance.org or call 401-331-2298.