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WDCSC joins nation to celebrate AmeriCorps Week, national service

(Everett, WA) March 9-17, 2013—Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC) is pleased to celebrate AmeriCorps Week during March 9-17, 2013 to recognize the commitment of AmeriCorps members and alums by highlighting the extraordinary impact AmeriCorps makes across the nation every day.

AmeriCorps Week is a time to salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their service, thank AmeriCorps community partners, and communicate the AmeriCorps impact on communities and on the lives of those who serve. Hundreds of events are taking place across the United States service projects, recruitment fairs, school presentations, alumni gatherings, awards ceremonies, and more. Learn more about AmeriCorps at www.AmeriCorps.gov.

“WDCSC has long been a supporter of AmeriCorps and its ethic of service,” explains Sue Ambler, President/CEO of Workforce Development Council Snohomish County. “We have been fortunate to host a number of AmeriCorps teams and now individual members with our organization over the years, and we are always amazed by the collective impact that these service members provide our community.”

Currently, two AmeriCorps VISTA members, Lisa Heinz and Jinhee Noh, serve at Workforce Development Council Snohomish County. Lisa and Jinhee are working to end family homelessness in Snohomish County as part of the initiative Investing in Families, sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. During their year of service, Lisa and Jinhee are developing and implementing a Investing in Families University and a plan for its evaluation, and gaining knowledge, skills, and abilities in organizational development, community leadership, and economic opportunity.

An AmeriCorps member, Cheryl Reith, serves on our Disability Employment Initiative. During her year of service, Cheryl is coordinating with WorkSource Snohomish County one-stop staff to create effective job placement for people with disabilities and networking with disability service providers and other professionals.

Additionally, WDCSC is proud to employ two AmeriCorps alums, Trisha Terhar and Julie Heijster, who both served under former AmeriCorps programs run by WDCSC that provided over 9,000 Snohomish County youth with job preparedness, service learning, leadership, and development activities.

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Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC)

WDCSC invests government and private funding to continuously increase the global competitiveness and prosperity of county workforce and businesses, fill current and emerging jobs, and provide full employment. Investments are made through effective business, labor, community-based, educational, and service provider organizations for the opportunity, economic well-being, and benefit of our entire community.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is the federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. The Corporation for National and Community Service engages more than five million Americans in service each year through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America, helping the nonprofits they serve expand their reach and impact.

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County hosts three members from the following two CNCS programs:

AmeriCorps State and National

This is the largest part of AmeriCorps, which engages more than 70,000 members annually serving with thousands of national and local nonprofits, faithbased institutions, schools and universities, public agencies, and Native American tribes. Members serve in both full-time and part-time positions and address critical community needs in education, economic opportunity, disaster services, healthy futures, environmental stewardship, and with veterans and military families.

AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps' poverty-fighting program was created in 1964 as part of the War on Poverty. The program engages more than 7,000 each year in collaborations with lowincome individuals and communities to fight poverty. VISTA members serve full-time for one year with more than 1,000 project sponsors and focus on capacity-building opportunities including raising funds, recruiting volunteers, and designing sustainable programs.