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## **University of Washington Among Peace Corps' Top Volunteer-Producing Colleges & Universities in 2014**

*Ranks No. 2 on Peace Corps' Large Colleges and Universities List*

WASHINGTON, February 11, 2014 – The Peace Corps today released the 2014 rankings of the top volunteer-producing colleges and universities across the country. This year, the University of Washington (UW) ranked No. 2 among large schools, with 85 alumni currently volunteering worldwide.

Each year over the past decade UW has held one of the top three spots in the rankings among large schools. The university was ranked No. 1 in the large school category in 2013.

“The same passion that launched the Peace Corps more than 50 years ago fuels progress in developing countries today thanks to the leadership and creativity that college graduates bring to their Peace Corps service,” said Peace Corps Acting Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet. “The unique Peace Corps experience helps recent graduates cultivate highly sought-after skills that will launch their careers in today’s global economy.”

Since the first days of the Peace Corps, 2,840 alumni from the University of Washington have traveled abroad to serve as volunteers. The school is ranked No. 3 historically in the total number of volunteers who have answered the call to serve. It is also currently ranked No. 2 in the total number of graduate alumni volunteers.

“For 10 years, the University of Washington has impressively sustained its rank among the top three schools in the nation for producing Peace Corps volunteers,” said Peace Corps West Coast Regional Manager Janet Allen. “We take enormous pride in recognizing and thanking the University of Washington for its continuing tradition of developing dedicated individuals who choose to serve the Peace Corps mission of promoting world peace and friendship.”

Service in the Peace Corps is a life-defining, hands-on leadership experience that offers volunteers the opportunity to travel to the farthest corners of the world and make a lasting difference in the lives of others. Peace Corps volunteers live and work at the community level and promote a better understanding between Americans and the people they serve, while at the same time becoming global citizens.

“Coming from UW, Peace Corps was never a 'crazy idea' because there are so many alumni who join Peace Corps, either right after graduation or later in life,” said UW alumna Molly McDonald, an English education volunteer in Moldova. “I felt that the culture at UW, especially in the Jackson School of International Studies, prepared and encouraged me to take what I had learned and use it to explore the world.”

When they return home, volunteers bring knowledge and experiences that give them a competitive edge for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs and advanced educational opportunities. They give back to their own communities and enrich the lives of those around them, helping to strengthen international ties and increase our country's global competitiveness.

The Peace Corps has six recruitment regions across the United States that work closely with prospective volunteers to ensure that all Americans who want to serve have the opportunity to do so. The West Coast Region serves the University of Washington, and Peace Corps recruiters are based throughout the area. Find the recruitment office near you by visiting the Peace Corps website [here](#).

The Peace Corps ranks the top volunteer-producing colleges and universities annually according to the size of the student body. Below find the top five colleges and universities in each category and the number of alumni currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers.

Large Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

*More than 15,000 undergraduates*

- |                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| 1. University of Wisconsin-Madison | 90 |
| 2. University of Washington        | 85 |
| 2. University of Florida           | 85 |
| 4. The Ohio State University       | 83 |
| 5. University of Michigan          | 81 |

Medium Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

*Between 5,000 and 15,000 undergraduates*

- |                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Western Washington University    | 65 |
| 2. University of Virginia           | 44 |
| 3. American University              | 43 |
| 4. The George Washington University | 41 |
| 5. Cornell University               | 29 |
| 5. The University of Vermont        | 29 |

Small Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

*Less than 5,000 undergraduates*

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Gonzaga University                                    | 22 |
| 2. SUNY College of Environmental Science<br>and Forestry | 17 |
| 3. Carleton College                                      | 16 |
| 3. Macalester College                                    | 16 |
| 3. Pacific Lutheran University                           | 16 |

Graduate Schools – Total Volunteers:

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. University of Denver                | 23 |
| 2. University of Washington            | 20 |
| 2. Tulane University                   | 20 |
| 4. University of Florida               | 17 |
| 5. University of Pittsburgh            | 13 |
| 5. University of Minnesota Twin Cities | 13 |
| 5. University of South Florida         | 13 |
| 5. The University of Texas at Austin   | 13 |

Historical, Since 1961 – Total Volunteers:

1. University of California, Berkeley	3,576
2. University of Wisconsin-Madison	3,112
3. University of Washington	2,840
4. University of Michigan	2,556
5. University of Colorado Boulder	2,385

*\*Rankings are calculated based on fiscal year 2013 data as of September 30, 2013, as self-reported by Peace Corps volunteers.*

Find the complete 2014 rankings of the top 25 schools in each undergraduate category [here](#).

A list of the 2013 Top Colleges and Universities can be found [here](#).

*About the Peace Corps: As the preeminent international service organization of the United States, the Peace Corps sends Americans abroad to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Peace Corps volunteers work at the grassroots level with local governments, schools, communities, small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. When they return home, volunteers bring their knowledge and experiences – and a global outlook – back to the United States that enriches the lives of those around them. President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961 to foster a better understanding among Americans and people of other countries. Since then, more than 215,000 Americans of all ages have served in 139 countries worldwide. Visit [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov) to learn more.*

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