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**University of Florida Celebrates Seventh Consecutive Year Among Top Five Peace Corps Volunteer-Producing Colleges & Universities**

WASHINGTON, February 18, 2016 – Today, the Peace Corps announced that the University of Florida (UF) ranked No. 3 among large schools on the agency’s 2016 Top Volunteer-Producing Colleges and Universities list. There are 59 Gators currently volunteering worldwide.

This is the seventh consecutive year that the University of Florida has ranked among the top 5 large colleges and universities, this year maintaining its No. 3 spot for highest number of volunteers serving.

“The Peace Corps is a unique opportunity for college graduates to put their education into practice and become agents of change in communities around the world,” Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet said. “Today’s graduates understand the importance of intercultural understanding and are raising their hands in record numbers to take on the challenge of international service.”

Alumni from more than 3,000 colleges and universities nationwide have served in the Peace Corps since the agency’s founding in 1961, including 1,333 UF alumni.

"Students across UF are actively engaged in a variety of on-campus, community-level and international service and volunteer opportunities. It is not surprising then, that so many are drawn to joining the newly launched Peace Corps Prep Program offered through our International Scholars Program (ISP). The program will help ensure UF continues as one of the top national producers of Peace Corps volunteers," said Cindy Tarter, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Academic Programs and ISP Coordinator.

Among states, Florida consistently ranks among the nation’s top volunteer producers, this year ranking No. 4 nationwide with 299 Floridians currently serving in the Peace Corps.

This year’s rankings follow a **40-year high** in applications for the Peace Corps in 2015. This

record-breaking number of applicants comes after the first full year that the agency's **historic application and recruitment** reforms have been in place. Applicants will now find a simplified, more personal application process, and can learn more by reaching out to the Atlanta regional recruitment office at [atinfo@peacecorps.gov](mailto:atinfo@peacecorps.gov).

Below find the top five colleges and universities in each category and the number of alumni currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers. View the complete 2016 rankings of the top 25 schools in each undergraduate category [here](#).

Large Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

*More than 15,000 undergraduates*

1. University of Washington (72)
2. University of Wisconsin–Madison (68)
3. University of Florida (59)
3. University of Minnesota (59)
5. University of Colorado Boulder (53)

Medium Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

*Between 5,000 and 15,000 undergraduates*

1. The George Washington University (43)
2. American University (42)
3. Western Washington University (41)
4. Cornell University (38)
5. University of Virginia (36)

Small Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

*Less than 5,000 undergraduates*

1. Gonzaga University (18)
1. University of Puget Sound (18)
3. Macalester College (17)
4. The Evergreen State College (13)
4. Carleton College (13)

Graduate Schools – Total Volunteers:

1. Tulane University (18)
2. University of Denver (17)
2. University of Michigan (17)
4. University of Washington (16)
5. American University (15)

Historical, Since 1961 – Total Volunteers:

1. University of California, Berkeley (3,615)
2. University of Wisconsin–Madison (3,184)
3. University of Washington (2,937)
4. University of Michigan (2,640)
5. University of Colorado Boulder (2,435)

*\*Rankings are calculated based on fiscal year 2015 data as of September 30, 2015, as self-reported by Peace Corps volunteers.*

The Peace Corps ranks its top volunteer-producing colleges and universities annually according to the size of the student body. See the 2016 Top Colleges and Universities [here](#).

About the Peace Corps: *The Peace Corps sends the best and brightest Americans abroad on behalf of the United States to address the most pressing needs of people around the world. Volunteers work with their community members at the grassroots level to develop sustainable solutions to challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. Through their service, volunteers gain a unique cultural understanding and a life-long commitment to service that positions them to succeed in today's global economy. Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 220,000 Americans of all ages have served in 141 countries worldwide. For more information, visit [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*

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