News
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Cal Poly Employee Named California's AmeriCorps Member of the Year

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Megan Mastache, a Cal Poly graduate and member of the Central Coast Volunteer Corps on campus, was named California's inaugural AmeriCorps Member of the Year by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver.

The award – given to a member who has demonstrated AmeriCorps values, made a significant contribution to their community and committed to a lifetime of service – was unique among the seven service awards that the state's first couple handed out May 6 at their second annual Medals for Service ceremony in Sacramento.

"This recognition is so well deserved," said Jesse Torrey, AmeriCorps coordinator at Cal Poly. "Megan embodies what service is all about, not only in her position as an AmeriCorps member but in her daily life as well."

In a release announcing the award, the governor wrote that Mastache works tirelessly to give a voice to the voiceless.

"She worked to combat homelessness and sexual assault in San Luis Obispo and has participated in the Food Share program for the past five years, connecting restaurants and their extra food with the local homeless shelters," the release reads. "She also served with the Developing Through Art program, bringing art into overflow shelters and giving homeless children an opportunity to express themselves through creativity."

During her two years of service with the Central Coast Volunteer Corps, Mastache also has established the framework for a thriving volunteer program and the San Luis Obispo Children's Museum and currently works with the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center.

Mastache graduated from Cal Poly in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Applied Art and Design.

Stephan Lamb, Cal Poly's associate director of Student Life and Leadership reflected on Megan's spirit of service: "Since early in her undergraduate career," he said, "Megan has embraced community activism and truly is an inspirational role model for

others."

Central Coast Volunteer Corps was established in 2007 and has 35 members serving in 28 local organizations in the San Luis Obispo area. AmeriCorps members serve for 10 months and in return receive a living allowance.

For more information about AmeriCorps Week, visit www.studentlife.calpoly.edu/americorps/ or contact the office at 805-756-5838 or sloccvc@gmail.com.

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