



Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service

Commission

Members:

- NATHAN RIX
Chair
- ELIAS VILLEGAS
Vice Chair
- DANIEL ALTAMIRANO
- HERNANDEZ
- SIERRA BARNES
- SHENIKA
- CUMBERBATCH
- JORGE CRUZ
- HEIDI EDWARDS
- MICHAEL FIELDMAN
- TODD JONES
- ADELE MCAFEE
- JAYESH PALSHIKAR
- COURTNEY SNEAD

Equity Advisory

Workgroup Members:

- SIERRA BARNES
- JORGE CRUZ
- SHENIKA
- CUMBERBATCH, *Chair*
- AMORÉE LOVELL,
National Service Representative
- ADELE MCAFEE

Commission Staff:

- CARIE BAUER
Director

- AMY HOLLAND
Program Officer

- STEPHANIE SOLOMON
Program Officer

- BRITTANY MELZER
Board Administrator

Technical Advisor:

- KAREN HUMELBAUGH
Director, OWI

January 15, 2020

To: AmeriCorps Programs and Members serving in Oregon,

From the Oregon Volunteers Commission, we wanted to say **THANK YOU** for making a commitment to serve your community and make an impact, whether as an AmeriCorps program staff or member, and whether you are coming from near or far.

As the Governor-appointed Commission for AmeriCorps in Oregon, we wanted to reach out and welcome members to this service year, and also share with you what is currently on our hearts and minds.

Collectively, we are facing some very hard truths right now with a reckoning on racial injustice and violence, and loss of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian and People of Color (BILAPOC) lives, which continues to have a deep and painful impact on our communities. We are asked to confront white silence and white supremacy in our institutions, in individuals, in our nation and in Oregon. We are asked – with our words and with our actions – to truly show that Black Lives Matter in our nation. We also have seen how COVID-19 has further highlighted the inequities the BILAPOC communities are experiencing, and how it has changed the nature of national service, and every other aspect of life.

Within the Commission, we are learning, acting, and reflecting how we can further support members. Growth begins with ourselves, as individuals, as staff and commission members, and as a collective agency. We are committed to listening more intentionally to our AmeriCorps programs and members. We will do our part to ensure that Oregon is a welcoming and inclusive space for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, color, disability, gender, gender identity, marital status, national origin, age, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, veteran status, and immigration status.

The Commission commits to adapt to the needs of the moment and be responsive to the experiences of programs and members, and to utilize the state’s guiding frameworks for addressing equity within our systems and structures, including national service in Oregon. As we continue our equity journey, we are reviewing our mission, values and goals through the lens of anti-racist principles, and are creating an Equity Commitment that will serve as a guiding path for the Commission’s work.

To all members, we thank you and value your service.

To our BILAPOC members, we acknowledge your experiences and commit to intentionally seeking out and lifting up your voices, providing you with support throughout your service, and transforming our organization inside and out, to live up to our aspirations as an antiracist organization.

Your partner in service,
Members of the Oregon Volunteers Commission