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NEWS RELEASE

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Community Partnership for Reading Support Positively Impacts Students

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque’s AmeriCorps Partners in Learning program was awarded a \$210,581 federal grant to partner with the Dubuque Community School District (DCSD) during the 2015-2016 school year to improve student reading proficiency. The partnership had a positive impact, with 89 percent of students showing increased reading proficiency as a result of working with an AmeriCorps tutor 30 times or more over the school year.

In total, AmeriCorps members tutored 1,431 kindergarten through third-grade students throughout the school year. Thirty-six AmeriCorps members were trained by DCSD staff and collaborated closely with elementary school classroom teachers and instructional coaches to provide one-on-one or small-group tutoring sessions to struggling readers.

“It’s great to see our students become successful readers,” said AmeriCorps Program Director Mary Bridget Corken-Deutsch. “Our schools’ classroom teachers and instructional coaches are already doing great work in their buildings and AmeriCorps is just excited to be a piece of the puzzle when it comes to improving student’s reading ability.”

School attendance numbers were also positively impacted through the AmeriCorps mentoring, with 94 percent of the K-3 tutored students having a 90 percent or higher attendance rate.

This is the second school year that AmeriCorps has partnered with the Dubuque Community School District to help improve student reading proficiency. AmeriCorps Partners in Learning, which has been in Dubuque since 2000, is sponsored by the City of Dubuque. If interested in becoming an AmeriCorps Academic Reading Tutor for the 2016-2017 school year, please contact Mary Bridget Corken-Deutsch at 563-584-8644.

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