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NEWS RELEASE

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Community Partnership Making a Difference

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Working closely with the Dubuque Community School District (DCSD), AmeriCorps Partners in Learning is making an impact on Dubuque students in kindergarten through third grade. During the 2016-2017 school year, 89 percent or 508 students, who completed the AmeriCorps tutoring program improved in their reading assessment from fall 2016 to spring 2017.

During the school year, 38 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.

“After a couple years of data, it’s great to see our AmeriCorps program is making a difference,” said AmeriCorps Program Director Mary Bridget Corken-Deutsch. “AmeriCorps members do such a nice job of collaborating with schools’ classroom teachers and instructional coaches to provide students extra support in reading.”

While tutoring students, AmeriCorps members also play a significant mentoring role. They are another caring, safe adult who gives students individual attention and notices their successes. Eighty-eight percent of the kindergarten through third grade students tutored by AmeriCorps had an attendance rate of 90 percent or higher.

Community members 18 years of age or older with a high school diploma can enroll as an AmeriCorps member to tutor and mentor struggling readers in our community. Those interested in becoming an AmeriCorps academic reading tutor for the 2017-2018 school year can apply online at www.cityofdubuque.org/amicorps or contact Mary Bridget Corken-Deutsch at 563-584-8644.

This is the third 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.

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