



**National School and Community Corps 2005:
Members' Perspectives on Service and its Impact
An Evaluation Report for EducationWorks
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
January 2006**

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EducationWorks/National School and Community Corps (EW/NSCC) aims to affect many different stakeholders and participants in its school-based programming. It has the goal of both providing valuable services to schools to support children's education and development and supporting corpsmember growth, learning and development as they provide these services. The data reported here speak most strongly to the impact of service on corpsmembers themselves. Their perceptions provide valuable data to understand their experience and its effect on them.

Corpsmember and Team Leader assessments of their NSCC experience and the impact their service experience had on their beliefs, attitudes, and futures were obtained through an end-of-service survey administered to 75 members between January and August 2005. Members' sense of civic responsibility and self were obtained through two post-only, end-of-service attitude inventories administered to 61 members. Response rates were approximately 86% for the survey and approximately 70% for the inventories, based on the number of corpsmembers who completed a full year of service.

Findings

Overall, corpsmembers strongly affirmed that their service as part of an NSCC team is a powerful and positive experience in their lives. They indicated that their service has supported significant personal growth and learning and has also provided them with a strong sense of contributing to youth and to society. The areas of impact identified by the survey correspond with EW's goals for corpsmembers, providing evidence that they are meeting their goals in this area.

In addition, the research instruments sought corpsmembers' perceptions of their service's impact on the children they work with. Corpsmembers clearly indicated that they believe their work provides important benefits for students, educators, and schools as a whole. Although these findings are important for EW to assess the success of their programs, the data represent only one perspective (of corpsmembers) and need to be triangulated with other data about programmatic impact on children.

Satisfaction with service experience

Most corpsmembers report high levels of satisfaction with their service experience. Ninety-one percent of members (68 individuals) reported that they were either "fully" or "generally" satisfied with their service experience

Corpsmember development

Corpsmember reports of development in a range of areas all exceed EducationWorks' Americorps Development objectives that 80% of members will report positive outcomes. More than 80% of corpsmembers reported that their experience:

- Left them with a stronger sense of civic responsibility (89%)
- Had a strong positive effect on their self-concept (92%)
- Had a positive impact on their learning (91%), e.g. growing as a professional and acquiring new skills or knowledge, and
- Had a positive impact on their career plans (92%), including leading some to change their career goal to encompass an education focus or work with children

Service Impact on Students

The majority of corpsmembers believed that their work contributed to the educational (76%) and/or social (67%) growth and development of children. For example, corpsmembers noted that they supported children's academic growth through reading and math tutoring and homework help; they also helped children improve their ability to get along with others and to resolve conflict. Corpsmembers reported developing mentoring relationships with students; these relationships often provided the context for supporting children both academically and socially.

NSCC Training

A majority of corpsmembers (64-76%)¹ reported that NSCC had effectively prepared them for their work in schools. The most frequently cited needs for additional training included dealing with angry children (55%), conflict resolution (35%), and anger management (35%).

¹Corpsmembers provided assessments of their training and its effectiveness in three different questions; positive responses re: training's effectiveness ranged from 64-76% for the individual questions.