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## Elementary and Primary Education



### Harris County Department of Education

News Release  
Monday, June 08, 2015

#### 19 CASE for Kids AmeriCorps members to work in summer out-of-school time programs with area at-risk, refugee youth

Nineteen AmeriCorps members took the pledge last month to work in summer out-of-school time programs with at-risk and refugee youth in Harris County. The young adults were sworn in to duty on May 19 at the May Harris County Department of Education Board of Trustees meeting. The 10 weeks of community service and working with youth will undoubtedly leave them with lifetime impressions.



“When AmeriCorps members fulfill their terms of service, the experiences help them cultivate who they are and who they can become,” said Lisa Thompson-Caruthers, director of the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Expanded Learning for Kids, or CASE for Kids. “Many of them are contemplating service careers like teaching or medical care, and these experiences with community help them explore possibilities.”

AmeriCorps members assist with service projects and teach established curriculum developed by CASE for Kids. Members will be working in nine community- and school-based sites throughout Harris County, including a site which serves refugee youth and their integration into society through the refugee support organization, Amaanah Refugee Services.

The quarter-time members must fulfill a 10-week commitment in summer afterschool programs, providing direct services to Harris County youth in grades elementary through middle school. Members receive a modest monthly stipend and tuition reimbursement for their service to the community via a grant from OneStar Foundation.

**Photo:** Members pledging for 2014-2015 are the following: (left front) Taylor Bass, Ana Arenas, Destiny Kindle, Ashley Blanco, Souvuoch Heng, Mary Ain Sykes, Alaura Mack, (left back) Marilyn Groves, Tyra Willingham, Summer Woods, Jarvis Hodges, Ayan Anderson, Ariel Simmons, Porscha Jackson, Natalie Cortes, Janise Waire, Katina Bedford, Muhammed Tunis and Brian Kizzee

**About the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Expanded Learning (CASE) for Kids:** CASE for Kids, formerly the Cooperative for After-School Enrichment, was launched by Harris County Department of Education in 1999. CASE for Kids is an after-school intermediary which leverages community resources and strengthens the capacity of the out-of-school time field. Services benefit approximately 11,000 kids in greater Harris County. CASE for Kids programs happen before and after school, on weekends and during the summer. Go to [www.afterschoolzone.org](http://www.afterschoolzone.org) for information.

**About Harris County Department of Education (HCDE):** HCDE provides education services to the general public and 25 school districts throughout Harris County and beyond. Services include adult education, programs to promote safe schools, after-school programs, therapy services, professional development for educators, special schools, alternative certification for principals and teachers, Early Childhood Intervention and Head Start programs. We offer purchasing procurement, grant development, program research and evaluation, records management, and school finance support. Since 1889, our services continue to evolve to meet the needs of our education public. Visit us at [www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org).

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