

Duckworth discusses college accessibility with AmeriCorps members in Chicago

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Senator announces over \$15 million in grant funding for Illinois AmeriCorps members to help support College Possible program

CHICAGO — Today, U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) met with AmeriCorps members from College Possible – a program designed to prepare students from underserved communities for college – to discuss her efforts to promote national service

and make higher education more accessible for all Americans. Duckworth also announced over \$15 million in grant funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to support Illinois AmeriCorps members.

“Expanding opportunities for higher education and national service is vital to our economy and our global competitiveness,” said Duckworth. **“It was great to learn more about the work of College Possible corps members today and I look forward to continuing my work in the Senate to help make higher education a reality for every American.”**

Duckworth has been a champion for public education since she was first elected to Congress. As a Congresswoman, she introduced the *In The Red Act*, which would strengthen Pell Grants and make community college tuition-free for deserving students to help prepare them for high-skilled jobs. In the Senate, she helped introduce the [Community College to Career Fund Act](#) (CC2C) to close the “skills gap” by creating a grant program to fund workforce training partnership programs between colleges and employers to help prepare Illinois students for jobs in high-demand industries, such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, clean energy and information technology.

Throughout her personal and professional life, Duckworth has also been a strong advocate for the expansion of national service opportunities for all Americans. Duckworth served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years and continued to serve her fellow Veterans as Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and then as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Throughout her career, she has also made a point of volunteering with community partners at local schools, food pantries and community centers. Last year, she introduced the *21st Century American Service Act* to increase service positions available through civilian national service organizations and ensure all young Americans are informed of the opportunities available to them. She plans to continue working to expand service opportunities for young Americans across the country in the Senate.

College Possible, which will receive \$376,300 through the CNCS grant, connects AmeriCorps members with students in underserved communities across the United States to help ensure they have the resources they need to prepare for and apply to college. The total CNCS grant will support 936 Illinois AmeriCorps members – many of whom participate in College Possible – with an \$11,053,898 investment, along with \$4,142,050 in education awards to help AmeriCorps members pay for college after they complete their service.