



Wednesday, November 10, 2004

## OU community invited to AmeriCorps celebration

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

While planning the celebration to mark the end of the AmeriCorps program, Carole Anne Ketelsen, former program director, is enjoying the opportunity to catch up with former AmeriCorps members.

She's delighted to learn that many of the 441 students in AmeriCorps have continued in service careers.

"Many have gone on and joined the military or the Peace Corps or are working in human service or education careers," Ketelsen said. "For a lot of them, AmeriCorps was their first touch of community service work."

The AmeriCorps celebration is Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 4 p.m. in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms. The program begins at 4:30 p.m., featuring speakers including the former director of the Michigan Community Service Commission, a representative from the City of Pontiac, a former member of AmeriCorps and Vice President of Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder.

For the past decade, the AmeriCorps program provided educational enrichment to Pontiac youths inside schools, community centers, churches and housing projects. Combined, Oakland students provided more than 31,000 hours of community service, working with more than 30,000 young people.

The AmeriCorps program ended in August. Funding sources were declining, and Ketelsen said the federal government also is looking at how long programs can exist.

"We made the decision to end the program as opposed to the government telling us we had to," Ketelsen said.

In addition to the OU community, Ketelsen invited representatives from all the former AmeriCorps sites as well as representatives from the City of Pontiac, Michigan Community Service Commission and local elected officials to the celebration.

### SUMMARY

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