Atlanta, GA, February 23, 2012. – This year, Eckerd College ranks #1 on the 2012 top Peace Corps volunteer-producing colleges and universities among small schools. There are currently 16 alumni serving overseas. Historically, 135 Eckerd alumni have served in Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps’ nine regional recruiting offices across the United States work to recruit and provide information and guidance to prospective volunteers. Applicants are encouraged to apply for Peace Corps service one year in advance of their targeted departure date. Americans with backgrounds in agriculture, environment, teaching English as a second language, and other technical or language skills related to Peace Corps assignment areas are encouraged to apply.

The following are the top Southeast colleges and universities in each undergraduate category and the number of undergraduate alumni currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers:

**LARGE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:**
# 1 University of Florida (Gainesville, FL) 101
# 2 University of Georgia (Athens, GA) 55
# 3 Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL) 45
# 4 University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL) 35
# 5 University of South Florida (Tampa, FL) 27
# 5 University of Tennessee (Knoxville, TN) 27

**MEDIUM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:**
# 1 Emory University (Atlanta, GA) 36
# 2 College of Charleston (Charleston, SC) 35
# 3 University of Miami (Coral Gables, FL) 19
# 4 Clemson University (Clemson, SC) 14
# 4 Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN) 14
# 5 University of North Florida (Jacksonville, FL) 13
# 6 University of West Florida (Pensacola, FL) 11
# 6 Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta, GA) 11
SMALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

# 1 Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, FL) 16
# 2 Flagler College (St. Augustine, FL) 12
# 3 Mercer University (Macon, GA) 11
# 3 Rhodes College (Memphis, TN) 11

The Peace Corps ranks its top volunteer-producing schools annually according to the size of the student body. Small schools have less than 5,000 undergraduates, medium-sized schools have between 5,001 and 15,000 undergraduates and large schools have more than 15,000 undergraduates. The rankings are calculated based on fiscal year 2011 data as of September 30, 2011 as self-reported by Peace Corps volunteers.

About the Peace Corps: Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps by executive order on March 1, 1961, more than 200,000 Americans have served in 139 host countries. Today, 9,095 volunteers are working with local communities in 75 host countries. Peace Corps volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment and the agency’s mission is to promote world peace and friendship and a better understanding between Americans and people of other countries. Visit www.peacecorps.gov for more information.

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