

Danielle Young



Out of respect and admiration for her country, Danielle Young joined the Illinois National Army Guard in May 2000. *"I chose to do this late in life, but the timing seemed right. I was activated in November 2001 to secure O'Hare Airport after 9/11 and reactivated in February 2003 to serve overseas during Operation Iraqi Freedom,"* said Young.

As an AmeriCorps member, Danielle served with the Snohomish County AmeriCorps Program where she mentored at-risk youth, conducted employability training and connected students to volunteer programs to help the students build life skills so they could thrive as adults and play an important role in building their community.

Sgt. Danielle Young stated, *"I strongly encourage other veterans to consider serving their country through national service so they can share their military and civilian careers, as well as the importance of community connectedness with the future leaders of tomorrow. AmeriCorps is the next step for prior service members' to go from to serving your country to serving your community."*

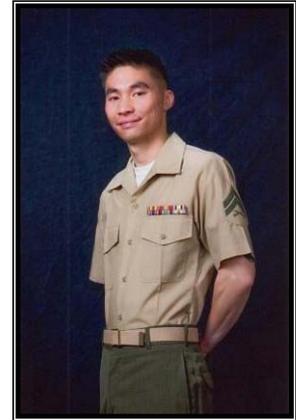
Young completed her MBA in December 2007. Danielle will soon relocate to Arizona to work as a Surveillance and Probation Supervisor for youth offenders within the Mohave County Courts where she will utilize the skills she gained through her education and AmeriCorps experiences as she mentors and helps to prepare youth offenders for successful re-engagement into society.

Jeff Philakham

For the last four years, Jeff Philakham has served as a Landing Support Specialist for the United States Marine Corps Reserves with Alpha Company 4th Landing Support Battalion. Jeff runs ground operations for cargo helicopters and airplanes and is responsible for the steady flow of passengers and cargo to and from landing zones and airfields. Philakham is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As an AmeriCorps member, Jeff served with the South Youth VISTA/Notre Dame AmeriCorps program where he was Teen Programs Coordinator and Summer Camp Counselor for the Shoreline/South County Family YMCA. During the school year, Jeff coordinated an after school program at Kellogg Middle School, and helped to lead social justice and youth government programs for high school students.

“Americans serve in the Armed Forces to serve their country and to fight for freedoms and liberties that all Americans enjoy. As an AmeriCorps member, you work directly with the community. You have a direct influence on the lives of those you serve. In my experience, I’ve learned that it takes good people to make the communities we live in worth living in. I’ve fought the good fight for my country by serving in the Marine Corps. Now I’m fighting the good fight to give young people the motivation they need to excel in this world,” said Jeff Philakham.



“This past year has been incredibly worthwhile to me. I look forward to continue working in public service in the years to come.” Jeff is currently working as an insurance agent for Farmers Insurance and continues to serve in the United States Marine Corps Reserves.

Dixon McReynolds

At the age of 19, Dixon McReynolds joined the United States Air Force. The Air Force motto says *'service before self'* which is a belief that he has embraced throughout his lifetime. During his military career, McReynolds served at eight different Air Force Bases stateside and overseas. Assigned to Personnel Affairs, Dixon McReynolds was a Casualty Assistance Representative. In this role, he was responsible for notifying families of active duty, reserve and retired members of the death of their loved ones.

McReynolds noted, *"In the beginning, seeing these families lives turned upside down was unsettling to me, but I came to understand the real service I was providing by helping these families to go forward after their lives had been changed forever. I served these families with pride during one of the most difficult time in their lives."*



During his first term of AmeriCorps, Dixon McReynolds served with the U.S. Veterans Initiative where he helped to tackle the problem of homelessness among veterans by providing outreach and support to help homeless veterans get off the street and back on their feet.

As a second year AmeriCorps member, McReynolds served at the Tacoma Housing Authority in Tacoma, Washington. Dixon and his fellow members provided adult basic education and tutoring; supported activities leading to family self-sufficiency; and assisted both youth and adults with the attainment of employment readiness skills.

While reflecting on his AmeriCorps experience McReynolds stated, *"I encourage other veterans to consider AmeriCorps National Service. It will give you the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others and give you a sense of purpose after your military career is over."*

McReynolds is a full-time student at The Evergreen State College. He plans to obtain a degree in Political Science so that he can serve his community as a public servant.