Michigan State, Americorps volunteer recognized by Gov. Snyder, Michigan Nonprofit Association

Snyder Volunteer Awards
Gov. Rick Snyder stands with winners during the annual Giving and Award Celebration at the Boji Tower on April 30, 2014. (Jay Scott Smith | MLive.com)

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LANSING – MSU, a Lansing Americorps alumna and a Mesick senior citizen were recognized today during the annual Giving and Volunteering Celebration.

"In the state of Michigan, we are really blessed to have very strong organizations and a really strong commitment to volunteering, giving, and nonprofit advocacy," State Rep. Sam Singh, D-East Lansing, said.

Michigan State University was honored as the Engaged Campus of the Year. Angela Clock of Lansing received an award for outstanding alumna of the national service organization AmeriCorps.

"It is an honor to be recognized by Michigan Campus Compact and the network MSU joined more than 25 years ago as a founding campus," MSU President Lou Anna Simon said. "We remain dedicated to the principles that advance the public purpose of higher education."

For Clock, who served in the Volunteer AmeriCorps program in her hometown of Muskegon from 2003 to 2005, the award was seen as recognition for a long career of giving back.

"It's kind of a big deal for me to be recognized for the work I've done," said Clock, who is currently a member of the Lansing Jaycees. "It was very touching and very moving and it reminds me of why I stayed in Michigan."

Clock first became interested in AmeriCorps after graduating from the University of Michigan. She returned to Muskegon and
tried to find ways to help, before landing in Lansing.

"I've been lucky enough to be in a good spot to help others," Clock said. "It's easy for me to help others because I know that people are struggling. I know that there are troubles in Michigan but people still need to be able to help each other in our communities."

Also honored during the ceremony were:

- State Senators Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and Roger Kahn, R-Saginaw Township, for their commitment to volunteerism

- Mary Gionet of Mesick received the Senior Corp Volunteer award.

- HandsOn Genesee as the Volunteer Center of the Year, which was selected out of 28 other volunteer centers in the state for their work with the Shiawassee-Genesee County Michigan Works Path Program – which helps families that receive assistance from the state find jobs.

The ceremony is sponsored by the Michigan Community Service Commission, the Michigan Nonprofit Association and the Council of Michigan Foundations.

Gov. Rick Snyder thanked the award recipients, calling it a "day of celebration" of volunteerism and said he envisions a trail of volunteerism from Ironwood to Belle Isle in Detroit.

"Last year I was up at Ironwood and the number of people that helped create that trail was fabulous," Snyder said. "And you can see the work that's going on at Belle Isle and making it the most exciting investment in decades. I'm looking forward to having a chance to do some volunteer work out there soon."

Snyder said people should find a cause in their cities or neighborhoods and volunteer. He said today's recipients "are role models and mentors to the rest of us. I want to thank you for all of your wonderful efforts across Michigan."

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