

### *For Immediate Release*

CONTACT: Liz Sullivan, Public Relations Manager  
617-521-2369/617-943-4382 Elizabeth.sullivan2@simmons.edu

## **Simmons College Among Peace Corps' 2017 Top Volunteer-Producing Colleges & Universities**

BOSTON, Mass. (March 1, 2017) - Simmons College ranked No. 13 among small schools on the Peace Corps' 2017 Top Volunteer-Producing Colleges and Universities list. There are 10 Simmons alumni currently volunteering worldwide.

This marks the second consecutive year that Simmons has appeared among the top rankings of small schools nationwide. Since the Peace Corps' founding in 1961, 145 Simmons alumni have traveled abroad to serve as volunteers.

Service in the Peace Corps is a life-defining, hands-on leadership experience that offers volunteers the opportunity to travel to a community overseas and make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

Laini Cassis graduated from Simmons in 2014 and currently serves as an environment volunteer in a rural village in Zambia. "Simmons prepared me for Peace Corps through its vibrant service community," said Cassis, who is from Millis, MA. "Also, Simmons' focus on gender equality and activism definitely propelled me to think about my role as a global citizen."

Added Cassis, "In my community, mothers are learning about home gardening techniques for improved family nutrition, as well as building fuel-efficient cookstoves made from local resources. Boys and girls are motivated to care for the trees they have planted."

The Peace Corps ranks its top volunteer-producing colleges and universities annually according to the size of the student body. The Greater Boston area ranked No. 7 among volunteer-producing metropolitan areas in 2016, with 176 Bostonians serving overseas.

Simmons College President Helen Drinan also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines in the early '70s with her husband and two small children. She says her Corps experience provided her with formative multicultural experiences that have influenced her leadership style and sensitivity.

**Simmons College** ([www.simmons.edu](http://www.simmons.edu)) is a nationally recognized private university located in the heart of Boston, and is the preeminent authority on women's leadership. Founded in 1899, Simmons is the only undergraduate women's college in Boston, and maintains a history of visionary thinking and a focus on social responsibility. The college offers world-class

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coeducational graduate programs in nursing and health sciences, including physical therapy and nutrition; liberal arts; life sciences; library and information science; management; and social work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at [@SimmonsCollege](#) and [@SimmonsNews](#).

### **About the Peace Corps**

The Peace Corps sends Americans with a passion for service abroad on behalf of the United States to work with communities and create lasting change. Volunteers develop sustainable solutions to address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. Through their Peace Corps experience, Volunteers gain a unique cultural understanding and a life-long commitment to service that positions them to succeed in today's global economy. Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 225,000 Americans of all ages have served in 141 countries worldwide. For more information, visit [peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).