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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE HARBOR INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH READING PARTNERS

**Reading Partners is a proven literacy program that partners with local public schools
across the country**

Washington, DC – May 7, 2020 – [The Harbor Institute](#) and [Reading Partners](#) have formed a strategic partnership to provide college students the opportunity to serve as AmeriCorps members, pairing with over 11,000 elementary school students who are struggling to read. By leading the day-to-day operations of reading centers, recruiting volunteers, or coaching volunteer tutors, AmeriCorps members make an impact on the students they serve.

“We are excited to share not only the value of education with Reading Partners, but also the direct access to empower our communities by offering these unique opportunities to college students across the country,” said Rasheed Ali Cromwell, JD President of Harbor Institute. “This partnership will benefit our college students and provide them access to serve as leaders for our youth,” he added.

The Harbor Institute’s innovative campus-wide programming, customized training, regional and national conferences, and consulting services focuses on the areas of fraternity and sorority life, diversity and inclusion, leadership development, risk/hazing prevention and cultural empowerment. The educational consulting firm reaches over 10,000 diverse students presenting at 50-60 colleges and universities nationwide on an annual basis.

The need is real

Nationwide, only 21% of economically disadvantaged students are reading proficiently by fourth grade. Nearly nine million elementary school students from low-income homes are unable to use reading as a foundational skill to power their learning across all subjects in

school. Without adequate literacy skills needed to read on grade level, kids don't have an equitable opportunity to succeed in their academics. In fact, students who can't read by the end of third grade are four times less likely to graduate from high school on time.

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"Our common commitment to provide students the support they need is exciting! This partnership enhances our efforts to attract AmeriCorps members from diverse backgrounds and experiences, which is important for our students, schools and communities." said Anton Taylor, National AmeriCorps Recruiter of Reading Partners

Reading Partners is a national nonprofit that mobilizes communities to provide students with the proven, individualized reading support they need to read at grade level by fourth grade. Reading Partners builds partnerships with teachers, parents, and community volunteers to provide students with focused literacy support in the early elementary grades. Among Reading Partners' youngest students, 90% are developing mastery of key foundational reading skills needed to read at grade level.

Reading Partners' AmeriCorps program is designed to impact members during and after their service terms.

- 90 percent of alumni agree that their Reading Partners AmeriCorps service experience helped them feel as though they made a contribution to the community where they served, and that they made a difference in the life of at least one person.
- 80 percent of alumni agreed that their service experience helped them gain an understanding of the community where they served and exposed them to new ideas and ways of seeing the world.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Reading Partners AmeriCorps positions!

About Reading Partners

For more than 20 years, Reading Partners has empowered students to succeed in reading and in life by engaging community volunteers to provide one-on-one tutoring. Since its founding, the national nonprofit organization has mobilized more than 60,000 community volunteers to provide proven, individualized literacy tutoring to nearly 60,000 elementary school students in over 400 under-resourced schools across ten states and the District of Columbia. Visit readingpartners.org to learn more about our program impact, or connect with us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram.

About The Harbor Institute

The Harbor Institute is the premier educational consulting firm based out of Washington, DC committed to partnering with institutions to achieve our shared mission of student success. Our

college/university division empowers students & administrators at over 250 different institutions in 38 states across the country. Visit [The Harbor Institute](#) to learn more and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).