

Commission for National and Community Service Questions for and Responses from Marian Crislip, Ph.D.

1. What qualifications and experiences do you have that will benefit the commission? How has your past volunteer and community service activities/leadership roles prepared you for this position?
 - I retired after 35 years of service as a classroom teacher, resource teacher, school administrator, district specialist, and state specialist (Testing and Measurement, Reading/Language Arts, English Language Learners) for the Hawaii Department of Education. In these varied positions, I had numerous opportunities to provide leadership, support, background knowledge, and a positive attitude to ensure that youngsters and adults are provided with the skills, tools, attitude, and knowledge to be responsible for their own learning.
 - I have been a Hawaii Blood Bank donor (whole blood and aphaeresis) since 1980 and my goal in the Blood Bank is to be a Century Donor. (I have only 12 more pints to donate before I make my 100 pints and become a Century Donor!)
 - I am a charter member of Mililani Christ Lutheran Church and serve as an assistant minister, an altar guild member, and an audio-visual assistant. Our church provides food pantry support to families in the community and on the North Shore, provides wholesome dinners for the men, women, and children in the shelters of the Institute for Human Services (IHS), and commits to seasonal needs as they arise.
 - I am an active member of the national honorary educational sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa – Lambda Chapter and am on the state council representing Fraternal Education. As a Lambda Chapter member I serve on the State Convention Committee, the Founders' Day Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee.
 - As a member of the Filipino Women's League, I served as Vice President, chair of the By Laws Committee, chair of the Scholarship Committee, and was an active member of various committees (Scholarship, Cop on Top for Special Education, Cultural Awareness, etc.)

2. What initiative would you recommend to increase community service participation for all ages?

As a former educator I know how important it is to instill community pride and community service in our youth. As a commission member I would advocate for community service to be a necessary prerequisite to graduation from a public high school. Empathy and compassion cannot be taught; they must be experienced.

3. What would be your top three priorities for the commission?

- To instill the benefits and merits of community service in the youth in our public schools
- To ensure that we have well-trained, experienced, and caring community leaders whose decisions impact on the well-being of the people in communities across our state
- To educate community members in how they can be of service to others

4. What impact do you think the current economic recession will have on volunteerism and what challenges and/or opportunities will the commission face during these times of economic uncertainty?

I believe that Obama's call for an "era of responsibility" and the current economic recession will come together to marry a common conviction among people to serve others. With this conviction, values will have renewed focus. Not "me", but "we". What can we do to help each other? What can we do to serve each other? Obama said that government can only do so much. It's up to the people to do the rest – to take the responsibility to make things happen. To complete the tasks to help people become stronger – physically, mentally, and spiritually.

The commission will face an ever increasing need for community support. At the same time, fiduciary accountability of public funds will be critical to ensuring public trust. Conduct of the commission as a whole, and its members individually, will be under public scrutiny. Concurrent with these challenges, however, will be opportunities for the commission to make a positive impact in the well-being of its constituents. As a commission, we will all have these opportunities to be held accountable for what happens in our communities. No excuses.