



# MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

January 26, 2017

[www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)

## Featured Article

### Rock Island County MRC Promotes Community Resiliency Through College-Based Zombie Run

Disasters are often unpredictable and can happen to anyone at any time. When these disasters occur, they put a significant strain on local communities. The Rock Island County MRC in Illinois recognized the need to not only prepare residents within the community in case of a disaster, but to also equip younger adults with the skills necessary to act effectively and decisively should the need arise.

In partnership with their student branch at Augustana College, the Rock Island County MRC has been able to successfully provide various trainings to local college students. To date, they have recruited 32 student volunteers to join the MRC with 21 of them completing the Federal Emergency Management System's (FEMA) National Incident Management System training during the past semester. First Aid classes are also set to open during the first quarter of 2017.



Activities are not only limited to the classroom as the MRC organized an active, outdoor event this fall called the "Zombie Run." The event consisted of faculty and students running to 10 different stations where they would create emergency kits. While constructing these emergency kits, participants would have to avoid MRC volunteers dressed as zombies. This served as a fun and interactive way to provide preparedness education while also recruiting additional MRC volunteers.

Other public health individuals are starting to recognize the innovative practices that the Rock Island County MRC is taking to not only train college students about disaster preparedness, but to also partner with their local college to set up a college-based Medical Reserve Corps program. The Rock Island County MRC was invited to present at an MRC Region V webinar to discuss their success.

The Rock Island County MRC also plans to attend NACCHO's Preparedness Summit in Atlanta at the end of April and apply the information they gather at the Summit to continue to promote a resilient community one student at a time.

For more information about the 2017 Preparedness Summit, please [click here](#).

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

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### Reminder: 2017 MRC Network Profile Survey Now Available

All active MRC unit leaders should have received their invitation to participate in the 2017 MRC Network Profile survey via e-mail on January 9, 2017. If you are a unit leader and did not receive the invitation to participate, please email [mrc@naccho.org](mailto:mrc@naccho.org).

#### What you need to know

- The survey link is unique for each unit and comes from the email address: [noreply@gemailserver.com](mailto:noreply@gemailserver.com). *It may help to put that email address on your safe sender list.* If you have more than one unit under your leadership, you will receive a link for a survey for each unit. The email will indicate which unit number the link is for.
- There are some questions that you may need assistance with. For example, we ask you questions about your budget and what funding sources have contributed to your MRC unit in the last year. If you don't know this information, ask your contact in finance now so you're prepared when you are filling out the survey.
- The survey should take about 45 minutes to complete. You do not need to finish it in one sitting but can save and return using the link from your invitation.

This is an important effort for the entire network. Eighty percent of the network participated in the last survey. Let's make it even higher this year!

If you have any questions about the 2017 MRC Network Profile, please email [mrc@naccho.org](mailto:mrc@naccho.org).

### Application period open for the 2017 MRC Leadership Training Summit

The 2017 MRC Leadership Summit will be held on Monday, April 24, 2017 prior to the NACCHO Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, Georgia.

Unit Leaders interested in attending must complete an online application. The application period will be open from January 27 to February 10, 2017. Applicants selected will be notified by February 17, 2017.

Please use this link to apply online:

[http://naccho.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8xeZD7wE8MaZPoN](http://naccho.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8xeZD7wE8MaZPoN)

## Announcements

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### 2017 MRC Challenge Award Application Period Closes

Thank you to all of the MRC units who submitted an application for an MRC Challenge Award this year. Every year there are many wonderful submissions and this year was not any different. We look forward to reviewing all of the applications and will notify grant awardees at the end of January 2017.

### 100th Podcast in NACCHO Podcast Series with Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck

In NACCHO's [100th podcast episode](#), Government Affairs Specialist Ian Goldstein sat down with NACCHO Executive Director Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck. They discussed Dr. Hasbrouck's career in public health, as well as his goals for NACCHO in the New Year. They also discussed transitioning to a new Administration and the importance of a focus on Public Health 3.0.

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# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

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The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments.

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Please contact Alyson Jordan, NACCHO's MRC Communications Specialist, with any questions or suggestions for the newsletter at 202-783-5528 or at [ajordan@naccho.org](mailto:ajordan@naccho.org).