



**September 9, 2008**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**School of Government and Appalachian State University  
Launch Local Government Service Corps**

CHAPEL HILL, NC – The Master of Public Administration (MPA) programs at the UNC–Chapel Hill School of Government and Appalachian State University (ASU) have come together to create the North Carolina Local Government Service Corps, a three-year initiative to assist economically distressed communities in the state. The pilot phase of the corps will deploy four MPA graduates into the service of up to 12 North Carolina rural communities through full-time positions shared by two or three communities.

Funding and support for the corps will be provided by the Golden LEAF Foundation, the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, and the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

The corps members will provide hands-on economic development and capacity-building assistance. They will be selected from the current class of second-year MPA students at both universities and will begin two-year service terms in July 2009. Both the corps members and the communities will be supported by UNC–Chapel Hill and ASU before and during the terms of service. The corps members will receive advanced training in economic development, local government management, and proposal writing and grant administration. Public officials in the host communities will receive scholarships to attend Essentials of Economic Development workshops offered by the School of Government in partnership with ASU and other universities as regionally appropriate.

Training for public officials and two years of service from a corps member are expected to demonstrate a sustainable impact in the rural communities served by the corps. Will Lambe, associate director of the Community and Economic Development program at the School of Government, will serve as interim director for the Service Corps initiative.

– 30 –

**Contact:**

Ellen Bradley, Director of Marketing and Communications, 919.843.6527 or [bradley@sog.unc.edu](mailto:bradley@sog.unc.edu)

Will Lambe, Associate Director, Community and Economic Development Program, 919.966.4247 or [whlambe@sog.unc.edu](mailto:whlambe@sog.unc.edu)

*Established in 1931 as the Institute of Government, the School of Government provides educational, advisory, and research services for state and local governments. Visit [www.sog.unc.edu](http://www.sog.unc.edu) or call 919.966.5381 for more information on the School's courses, publications, programs, and services.*