

Blum tours IBSSS, AmeriCorps; hears about community impact

by Jim Morrison
News Editor

VINTON – U.S. Rep. Rod Blum of Iowa's First Congressional District stood in front of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School's Old Main Friday afternoon in awe of the architecture.

"What a great old building," Blum said looking up at the clock tower.

Inside, the Dubuque Republican learned a brief history of the Hawkeye State's second oldest government building – the oldest being the old State Capitol in Iowa City – and then listened and asked questions during Rob Levin's presentation on AmeriCorps.

Levin visited the AmeriCorps office in the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School on Friday afternoon to learn about the AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps provides training for volunteers to the program. After the session, Blum toured the building constructed in 1872 and learned its history.

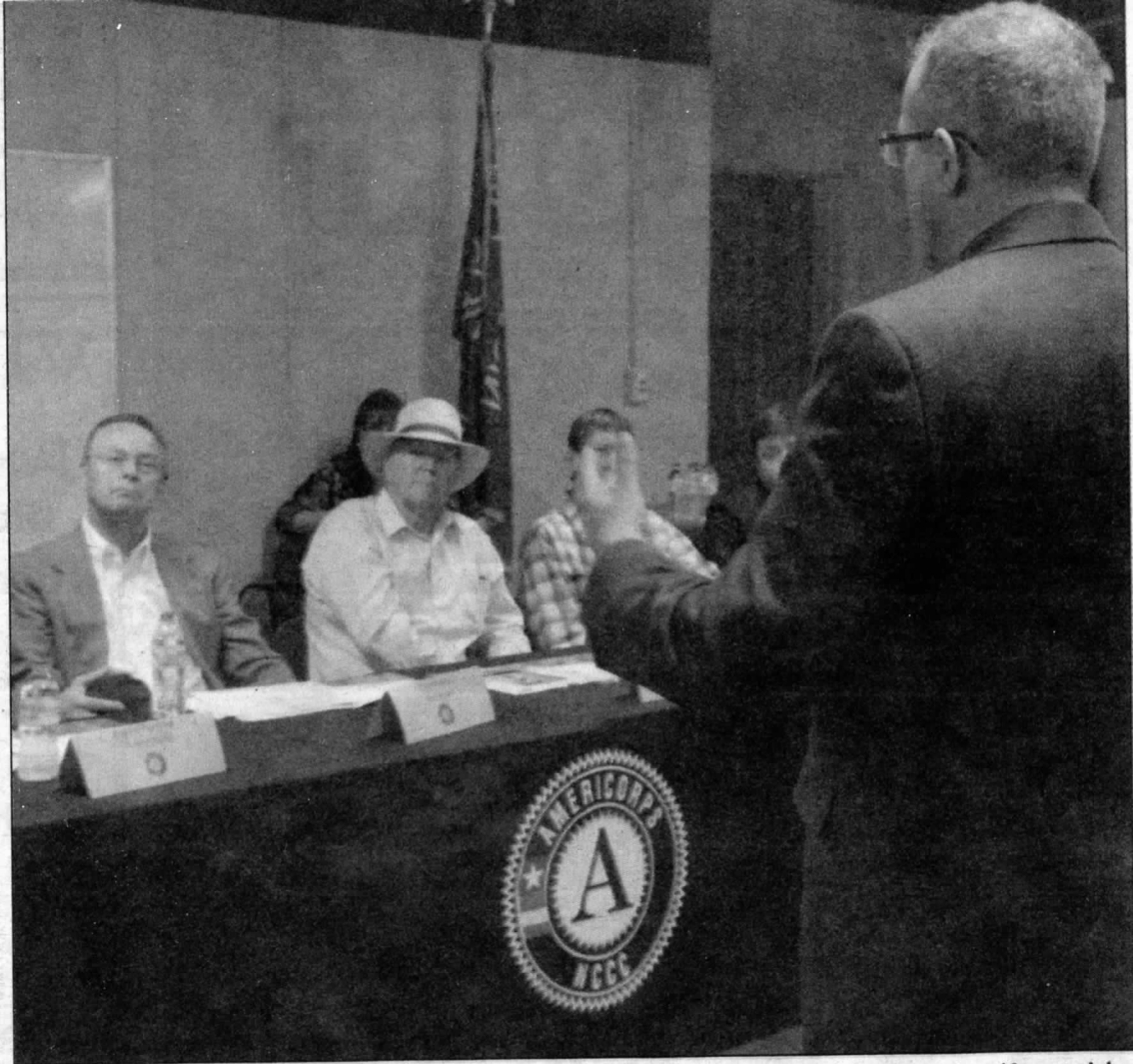
AmeriCorps was established in 1994 with five service regions. Vinton is the training center for the North Central CC region. Projects are developed with nonprofits, tribal or governments with sponsors providing lodging, food or kitchen space.

Service areas include natural or other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, urban and rural development.

AmeriCorps NCCC Projects completed in the United States since 2008 were 843 with 237 of those in Iowa. Service hours were 2.4 million in the United States and 462,236 in Iowa.

In Vinton, AmeriCorps has spent 37,453 service hours with 17,821 of those due to disasters. More than 105,000 were spent in Cedar Rapids with 54,538 for disaster purposes.

AmeriCorps is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service.



U.S. Rep. Rod Blum, (R-Iowa), listens to Rob Levin outline the AmeriCorps program Friday afternoon at AmeriCorps training center in the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School. Levin told Blum a new five-year lease has been signed for AmeriCorps to occupy the building. From left to right, Blum, Vinton Mayor John Watson and City Council member Nathan Hesson. Photo by Jim Morrison. For more pictures of Rep. Blum's visit go to <https://vintonnewspapers.smugmug.com>