The Great Oaks Tutor Corps (Great Oaks Foundation) would like to nominate Matt Jovic for the Harkin award. When Matt was asked, what was the main reason for his desire to serve as an AmeriCorps Member, he replied "wanting to serve my country". In our end of the year AmeriCorps Member survey, when we asked our members how connected they now felt to the larger mission of AmeriCorps, Matt replied, "Very connected. I wanted to make America better, and by serving with you, I believe I did that".

Matt has three years of AmeriCorps experience under his belt, and served for two of those years with Great Oaks. In his first year at Great Oaks, Matt served as a tutor. In this role, he volunteered to tutor the most behaviorally challenged students at the school. He is an extremely hard and dedicated worker and created over 180 math quizzes for his math tutorial sessions.

In his second year at Great Oaks, Matt served as a team leader. He led an extremely diverse team of AmeriCorps Members, which required him to develop his emotional intelligence and general leadership skills. His team held him in high esteem and consistently rated their AmeriCorps experience as a positive one. His team also consistently met expectations including the timely completion of student data tracking, student attendance tracking, lesson planning, tutorial observations and making parent phone calls. As a team leader, Matt focused heavily on developing his team members into leaders and instilling them with the passion for service. Four AmeriCorps members, who were on his team, will be returning to Great Oaks to serve in our 2018-2019 Tutor Corps.

Matt truly embodies the spirit of service. His father served as a fireman, and Matt intends to follow in his footsteps by becoming a firefighter.