

PRESS RELEASE

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**Partnerships for WV Ready Graduates Featured at Education Summit
Hosted by The Education Alliance on October 30, 2019**

Charleston, W.Va. – Partnerships for WV Ready Graduates is the topic of the 2019 *West Virginia Education Summit* on October 30, 2019 at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. This year's Summit, hosted by The Education Alliance, will focus on the skills all West Virginia students need to succeed in college, careers, and their future.

"Teachers, principals, and other education professionals across the state are working daily to develop our most vital resource, our children. They need partners from every sector of the state, especially from the business community, to match their efforts and help them do more," said Dr. Amelia Courts, president and CEO of The Education Alliance. "The 2019 Summit will focus on how business and community partners can help develop WV Ready Graduates."

The Summit will begin with a panel of West Virginia industry leaders and educators who will explore what it means for a high school graduate to be "ready" for success as they discuss their work to design a Portrait of a WV Ready Graduate. The keynote address will be provided by Dr. Karen Garza, CEO of Battelle for Kids, who will share her experience working with local districts across the country to create meaningful transformation. She will also lead a conversation with West Virginia educators about how they have utilized the WV Ready Graduate as a catalyst for system-level change and improvement.

"I'm looking forward to being with the education leaders of West Virginia, and sharing how we at Battelle for Kids collaborate with school districts and communities to realize the power and promise of 21st century learning for every student," said Dr. Karen Garza, CEO of Battelle for Kids. "One way we do this is through developing Portraits of a Graduate with districts across the country. Every community is different, and therefore every Portrait is different, but each one helps unite the community and district around shared aspirations for their children and their future."

Over lunch, participants will have the opportunity to network during a Student Expo showcasing state exemplars in developing WV Ready Graduates. In the afternoon, participants will receive resources to support business and community engagement efforts within schools including: Playbook for WV Ready Graduates, technical assistance, and recognition opportunities for exemplary business partnerships.

"As we think about the tremendous opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for our state's economy, it is critical that we support innovative approaches to education," said Brett Staples, Chairman of The Education Alliance Board of Directors. "Through gatherings like the Summit, we can learn from one another and work together to develop new strategies and models of learning that will provide our students with the very best."

The *West Virginia Education Summit* will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 30, 2019, at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. Registration is open through October 25. For more information or to register online, visit EducationAlliance.org/Summit or contact The Education Alliance at 304-342-7850.

Sponsors for the Summit include: AEP Foundation; AT&T; Bowles Rice; EQT Foundation; FirstEnergy Foundation; Jackson Kelly; Mylan; Northeast Natural Energy, United Bank; West Virginia Economic Development Council; and ZMM Architects and Engineers. The Summit is being held in partnership with West Virginia GEAR UP. Be sure to join the conversation online at #wvedsummit or tweet us your thoughts at @theedualliance.

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About The Education Alliance

Founded in July 1983 as the first statewide public education fund in the nation, The Education Alliance is a private-sector initiative to help businesses understand the importance of financially and resourcefully supporting the state's public schools and to give business a voice in public education that advances policies and practices to continually improve public school student achievement in West Virginia.