

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2019

Contact: Emily Pratt

304-342-7849

emily@educationalliance.org

Seventh Annual West Virginia Education Summit Featured Partnerships for WV Ready Graduates

Charleston, W.Va. – On October 30, more than 200 business, community and education leaders gathered in Charleston for the *West Virginia Education Summit* to discuss partnerships for WV Ready Graduates. This year's Summit, hosted by The Education Alliance, focused 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 focused on how business and community partners can help develop WV Ready Graduates."

The highlight of the event was the keynote provided by Dr. Karen Garza, CEO of Battelle for Kids, who shared her experience working with local districts across the country to create meaningful transformation. She also led 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 enjoyed being with West Virginia education leaders 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."

The Summit began with a panel of West Virginia industry leaders and educators who explored 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. Over lunch, participants had the opportunity to network during a Student Expo showcasing state exemplars in developing WV Ready Graduates. In the afternoon, participants received 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."

For more information on the summit, visit EducationAlliance.org/Summit or contact The Education Alliance at 304-342-7850. Be sure to join the conversation online at #wvedsummit or tweet us your thoughts at @theedualliance.

Sponsors for the Summit include: Appalachian Power; AT&T; Bowles Rice; EQT Foundation; Dominion Energy; FirstEnergy Foundation; Jackson Kelly; Mountain Health Network; Mylan; Northeast Natural Energy, United Bank; West Virginia Economic Development Council; and ZMM Architects and Engineers.

###

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.