

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Omar Elementary School Hosts Community Math Night**

*American Electric Power Foundation supports STEM Education through Community Math Night*

**Omar, WV** – West Virginia employers acknowledge that science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills are critical for highly educated workers, as well as professions that do not require a college degree. Over the next several years, West Virginia is projecting to have 25,000 jobs in STEM-related fields. Workers in STEM occupations use science and math to drive our state's innovation and competitiveness by generating new ideas, new companies and new industries.

The math night at Omar is part of a larger effort by The Education Alliance, called [Energizing steM](#), designed to help young students build a strong foundation in math and engage older students and their families and community members by raising awareness of STEM careers. The Energizing steM project is offered through a major grant from the American Electric Power Foundation designed to strengthen STEM education.

On April 15th, Omar Elementary School hosted a Community Math Night designed allow family and community members to explore content, activities, and games that support math learning in fun ways. The event allowed families the opportunity to develop and enhance their own math knowledge so they may support their students' learning and education.

"Omar Elementary recognizes the importance of developing a strong foundation in mathematics as the center of our STEM education program. The math night was a great way to enhance public understanding of the need for STEM, build STEM career awareness, and provide a specific focus on the critical role of building strong math skills," said Martha Curry, principal of Omar Elementary School.

"West Virginia has a bright future, and we want to ensure our students have the knowledge and skills they need to be successful. A strong background in STEM skills is a key part of that preparation," said Dr. Amelia Courts, president and chief executive officer of The Education Alliance. "The Education Alliance is extremely grateful for the AEP Foundation's significant investment in this effort. The Energizing steM initiative will be a powerful game-changer for many students."

Through this project, Omar Elementary received coaching and support from the [Regional Educational Laboratory \(REL\) Appalachia](#) to design activities align with the West Virginia Department of Education's college and career readiness standards for math. The project also provides 2,200 elementary students in Lincoln and Logan counties with an effective computer-based supplemental curriculum to improve math outcomes.

For more information about the Energizing steM Education initiative, visit [EducationAlliance.org/STEM](http://EducationAlliance.org/STEM) or contact Emily Pratt at 304-342-7849 or [emily@educationalliance.org](mailto:emily@educationalliance.org).



#### **About AEP Foundation**

*The AEP Foundation is funded by American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP) and its utility operating units, including Appalachian Power. The Foundation provides a permanent, ongoing resource for charitable initiatives involving higher dollar values and multi-year commitments in the communities served by AEP and initiatives outside of AEP's 11-state service area. The Foundation focuses on improving lives through education from early childhood through higher education in the areas of science, technology, engineering, math and the environment, and by meeting basic needs for emergency shelter, affordable housing and the elimination of hunger. Other Foundation support may be offered to protect the environment, support healthcare and safety, and enrich life through art, music and cultural heritage.*



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#### **About Appalachian Power**

*Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is a unit of American Electric Power, one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, delivering electricity and custom energy solutions to nearly 5.4 million customers in 11 states. AEP owns the nation's largest electricity transmission system, a more than 40,000-mile network that includes more 765-kilovolt extra-high voltage transmission lines than all other U.S. transmission systems combined. AEP also operates 224,000 miles of distribution lines. AEP ranks among the nation's largest generators of electricity, owning approximately 26,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP supplies 3,200 megawatts of renewable energy to customers.*



#### **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.*



#### **About Regional Educational Laboratory Appalachia**

*The Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Appalachia translates research to practice in partnership with policymakers and practitioners in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.*

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