

## NEWS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The Education Alliance Announces New President/CEO Leading West Virginia Education Advocate to Join Organization**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The Board of Directors of The Education Alliance is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Amelia Davis Courts as president/CEO, effective July 31, 2013**. She succeeds Dr. Patricia S. Kusimo, who leaves The Education Alliance after five successful years at the helm.

Dr. Courts has an impressive educational and professional background. Dr. Courts has 25 years of experience working professionally in the educational sector and collaborating with business and community organizations. Most recently, she served as the Assistant State Superintendent for the West Virginia Department of Education for three years. In this position, she provided strategic oversight to the State Board of Education's policy and district-level infrastructure in support of federal programs, healthy schools, professional preparation, and school improvements in all 55 West Virginia counties.

"Amelia Courts has long been a leading advocate for enhancing public school student achievement," said Jim Thomas, Chair of The Education Alliance's Board of Directors and member of Jackson Kelly PLLC. "We are excited to have another intelligent and respected voice to lead our team. With her extensive background, Dr. Courts is the perfect leader to spearhead The Education Alliance's ongoing efforts to achieve meaningful and lasting reform of West Virginia's public schools."

During her tenure at the West Virginia Department of Education, Dr. Courts served as the Executive Director of the Office of International Schools for 13 years. In this role, she collaborated with some of the state's key international businesses and successfully designed programs to meet the needs of their employees. Dr. Courts also led educational advances for foreign students by launching the state's International School for Japanese students in grades PreK-12.

"Increasing student achievement is critical to our state's future success and is something we all must work together to support," Amelia Courts said. "I look forward to joining The Education Alliance and building on that legacy of support."

*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. It strives to advance policies and practices that will continually improve public school student achievement in West Virginia. For more information, visit [www.EducationAlliance.org](http://www.EducationAlliance.org) or contact The Education Alliance at 866-314-KIDS.*

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