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PRESS RELEASE

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Education Alliance Hosts EDTalks with Dr. E. Gordon Gee *EDTalks: Connecting Education, Jobs and Our Future*

Charleston, W.Va. – The Education Alliance will host *EDTalks: Connecting Education, Jobs and Our Future*, from 12 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, at the Morgantown Event Center. The event, the first in a series, will engage business, education and community leaders in an innovative discussion on strengthening public education. Dr. E. Gordon Gee, President of West Virginia University, will provide the keynote address.

"As we think about the tremendous economic opportunities and challenges facing our state, the connection between jobs and education is obvious. Engaging our communities in this conversation is mission critical to our success" said Dr. Amelia Courts, president and chief executive officer of The Education Alliance. "The Education Alliance is excited to hear from such an influential thought leader on how we can strengthen the pipeline to future jobs in West Virginia."

EDTalks is an education-based speaker series that promotes innovative discussion and big ideas about connecting education, jobs and our future. EDTalks will be held across West Virginia to provide a lively series of networking and education events designed to engage business, education, and community leaders in public education issues. Each program will feature compelling presentations by cutting-edge speakers, professionals, and advocates along with ample time for conversation and networking.

"Colleges and universities have the power to take ideas and turn them into jobs," said WVU President Gordon Gee. "To harness that power, we must build partnerships with everyone -- government, industry, K-12 educators, communities, and other institutions. Working together, we can create a future that offers opportunity to our young people and a talented workforce for our employers. EdTalks will be a great springboard to launching innovative partnerships, and I appreciate The Education Alliance for making it possible."

EDTalks is open to the public with registration through May 12. For more information or to register online, visit EducationAlliance.org/EDTalks or contact The Education Alliance at 866-314-KIDS.

Frontier Communications, JPMorgan Chase, and Scott & Carol Rotruck are sponsoring the event.

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.

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