

PRESS RELEASE

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EDTalks Event Connects Education, Jobs And West Virginia's Future

Senator Manchin, WV Teacher of the Year Erin Sponaugle, American Public University System President Wallace Boston Scheduled to Speak

Charleston, W.Va. – The Education Alliance will host *EDTalks: Connecting Education, Jobs and Our Future*, on Thursday, June 19, from 12 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. at American Public University System's (APUS), Finance Center located at 393 N. Lawrence Street, Charles Town, WV. EDTalks is an education-based speaker series that promotes innovative discussion and big ideas on strengthening public education.

"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 influential thought leaders on how we can strengthen the pipeline to future jobs in West Virginia."

The event will engage business, education and community leaders in an innovative discussion on strengthening public education. The event will feature three EDTalks presented by the Honorable Joe Manchin, III, United States Senator, Erin Sponaugle, 2014 West Virginia Teacher of the Year, and Dr. Wallace E. Boston, president and chief executive officer of American Public University System.

EDTalks are being 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.

"There is no better investment than education, plain and simple. The future of West Virginia and the country will be shaped by the commitments we make to educating our children today," Senator Manchin said. "It is an honor to attend this event and discuss ways we can continue raising standards for education to ensure that our students are equipped with the experience, knowledge and skillsets they need to be competitive in an ever-growing global marketplace. The sooner our students recognize that a quality education is their key to a higher quality of life, the more successful the Mountain State and the United States will be."

"As the cost of higher education continues to increase, it is increasingly important that universities like APUS offer affordable programs and work collaboratively with employers to define the most important skills needed for the 21st century worker to succeed in the workplace," said Dr. Boston. "Otherwise, evolving technology developments have the real potential to outpace our ongoing efforts to ensure that our curriculum fully meets the diverse needs of our students."

EDTalks is a free event that is open to the public with registration through June 16. For more information or to register online, visit EducationAlliance.org/EDTalks or contact The Education Alliance at 866-314-KIDS.

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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