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PRESS RELEASE

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EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION: IT'S EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

The Education Alliance to Host West Virginia Education Summit

Charleston, W.Va. – The Education Alliance has scheduled a summit, *Excellence in Education: It's Everyone's Business*, for 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, at the Charleston Civic Center, where business, education and community leaders will discuss how they can work together to achieve excellence in education in West Virginia.

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin will host the summit in collaboration with The Education Alliance.

"We've taken a bold step this year and committed ourselves to improving our children's education. Through gatherings like this, we can learn from one another and work together to develop the methods that will enable us to reach the goals we've set—and provide our children with the very best," the governor said.

During moderated sessions, participants will hear about the experience of other states, specifically Florida. Gayle Manchin and Lloyd Jackson, members of the West Virginia State Board of Education, will discuss progress in the Mountain State. A West Virginia panel will expand the discussion to include reactions from business and legislative leaders, county boards of education, superintendents, teacher organizations, and other stakeholders.

"If we are serious about producing graduates who can perform the complex and high-tech jobs needed for our state's economy, we must bring all stakeholders together to discuss how we can accomplish this critical goal," said Dr. Amelia Courts, president and chief executive officer of The Education Alliance.

"In the afternoon, we will expand the conversation further, and participants will have an opportunity to share their opinions, suggestions, and ask questions," she said. "We want to hear your voice."

Former Governor Gaston Caperton will moderate a town hall session.

Registration is open through Oct. 29. For more information or to register online, visit EducationAlliance.org/Summit or contact The Education Alliance at 866-314-KIDS.

JPMorgan Chase, Bowles Rice LLP, Appalachian Power, Jackson Kelly PLLC, United Bank, the West Virginia Department of Education, and the West Virginia Economic Development Council 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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