

PRESS RELEASE

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**Statewide Education Summit Co-hosted by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and
The Education Alliance Focused on Helping WV Children Succeed
November 5, 2013**

Charleston, W.Va. – To raise awareness about the critical need to provide every child with a quality public education, The Education Alliance and Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin are co-hosting a summit, *Excellence in Education: It's Everyone's Business* on Nov. 5, 2013, at the Charleston Civic Center.

"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.

Business, education and community leaders are invited to participate in this important discussion on how we can work together to improve student achievement in West Virginia. The education summit provides a unique opportunity for participants to hear success stories from [Foundation for Excellence in Education](#) experts and share their own opinions and ask questions in a town hall session moderated by former Gov. Gaston Caperton.

"The future quality of life for the citizens of West Virginia is directly linked to the performance of our students," said West Virginia Board of Education President and Education Summit presenter Gayle Manchin. "We know that the only way our graduates will be prepared to succeed in college or meet the requirements of high-quality jobs is if business, education and community leaders work together to achieve excellence in education in West Virginia. The board is working to implement the governor's education reform vision and is actively leading change. The education summit will provide a much-needed opportunity to exchange opinions, share ideas and explore innovative ways to engage students."

"As we think about the tremendous opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for our state's economy, the connection between jobs and education is obvious. West Virginia will need each and every one of our state's 280,000 public school students to be fully prepared for the complex and high-tech jobs of the future," said Dr. Amelia Courts, President/CEO of The Education Alliance. "The theme of our summit, "Excellence in Education: It's Everyone's Business," speaks to the need for West Virginians to make education our number one business."

Excellence in Education: It's Everyone's Business will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5, at the Charleston Civic Center in Charleston. 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. Be sure to join the conversation online at #wvedmybusiness or tweet us your thoughts at @theedualliance.

This event is sponsored by JPMorgan Chase; Bowles Rice LLP; Appalachian Power; Chesapeake Energy; First Energy; Jackson Kelly PLLC; International Industries; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe; United Bank; the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce; the West Virginia Department of Education; and the West Virginia Economic Development Council.

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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.