

PRESS RELEASE

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Second Annual West Virginia Education Summit Focused on Helping WV Children Succeed

Charleston, W.Va. – On October 20th, more than 250 business, community and education leaders gathered in Charleston for the *Excellence in Education: It's Everyone's Business* summit to share strategies to improve the quality of education for all West Virginia children. The summit was co-hosted by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and The Education Alliance.

“As a former teacher and as a father, I understand the importance of a good education, and as Governor, I recognize providing a world-class education is essential to West Virginia’s future,” Gov. Tomblin said. “Through continued collaboration at events like this year’s Education Summit, we can continue to improve and increase educational opportunities to ensure our state’s continued growth and economic success. By investing in our future and providing our children with the best education possible, we are building the foundation for improving student achievement across the state.”

Participants had the unique opportunity to hear from both state and national education experts. The summit featured author and CEO of Getting Smart [Tom Vander Ark](#) who discussed how digital learning is transforming education across the world and what students, parents, teachers, leaders, and investors should do to take advantage of this revolution. West Virginia Superintendent Michael Martirano shared his vision for galvanizing the state around student achievement and having one voice and one mission to improve academic achievement for all students.

“I’m convinced that emphasizing real-world, deeper learning will engage students and help us raise graduation rates as well as skill levels of new graduates” said Dr. Amelia Courts, president and CEO of The Education Alliance. “Our business and industry leaders tell us that they need a high quality workforce to ensure West Virginia’s future. I believe they are willing to step up and play a critical role in supporting innovative changes in our schools.”

The summit included both national and state presenters including West Virginia Board of Education President, Gayle Manchin who said, “The future quality of life for the citizens of West Virginia is directly linked to the performance of our students. 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.”

For more information on the summit or to view the video recording, visit EducationAlliance.org/Summit or contact The Education Alliance at 866-314-KIDS. Be sure to join the conversation online at #wvedsummit or tweet us your thoughts at @theedualliance.

This event was sponsored by Appalachian Power; AT&T; Bowles Rice LLP; Chesapeake Energy; Community and Technical College System of WV; First Energy; Higher Education Policy Commission; Jackson Kelly PLLC; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe; Toyota Motor Manufacturing WV; United Bank; West Virginia Chamber of Commerce; West Virginia Department of Education; and 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.