

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Williamson Middle School Achieves Program Success**  
*Local principal receives honorarium for innovative education-based programming*

**Williamson, W.Va.** – A local school has recently completed participation in a statewide initiative to increase school and student success. Williamson Middle School participated in The Education Alliance’s Student Educational and Economic Development Success (SEEDS) Program. Principal Helen Curry applied for and was awarded the two-year SEEDS grant in 2009 and has used the resources to implement a reading/language arts and math achievement program for seventh grade students.

SEEDS is an exclusive professional development experience for public school principals in West Virginia that links them with a seasoned business CEO and with a professional education consultant. Together, they develop and execute a business plan that targets key challenges at their schools. The benefits of SEEDS include enhanced principal leadership skills, increased student achievement and community involvement, and improvements in facilities and management processes. Williamson Middle was assisted by Julie Miles who served as an educational consultant and worked diligently to support the school.

To increase seventh grade achievement, Curry implemented the Reading 180 and Accelerated Reading programs at her school. She also increased tutoring support and the use of instructional technology, and she provided professional development on Response to Intervention (RTI) strategies for teachers.

“Williamson Middle School is proud of how the SEEDS program has helped our school achieve,” Curry said. “Through the use of the grant, more technology and instructional resources and training were available for our targeted students and teachers,” she said. “As a result, the entire staff and student body of Williamson Middle School were touched through this effort,” she said.

“Since Helen Curry came to Williamson Middle School four years ago, she has had a great impact on both the students and the staff,” said Miles. “She inspires them to give 100 percent in whatever they are endeavoring to accomplish,” Miles continued. “Ms. Curry is a wonderful leader, and I have been privileged to work with her,” she continued.

Williamson Middle School participated in SEEDS for two years. Principals were selected for the SEEDS program through a competitive application process. Preference was given to principals with three or fewer years of experience, and who were in the top 25 percent of their Principal Leadership Academy class.

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