

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Emily Schoen

(304) 590-0461

emily@educationalliance.org

Education Alliance Announces 8 STEM Network Schools \$1 Million Dollar Investment in WV Network of STEM Schools

Charleston, WV – The Education Alliance pleased to announce that eight West Virginia schools have been selected to create model STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs that pioneer innovative STEM-education techniques and workplace learning experiences for students. The STEM Network Schools program was developed based on the recommendations of the Governor’s STEM Council which was formed in April 2014 through Executive Order No. 3-14.

“As we prepare our students to compete in today’s global workforce, it is critical we continue to engage our students by providing increased access to science, technology, engineering and math learning opportunities,” Gov. Tomblin said. “West Virginia has a bright future, and we want to ensure our students have the skills employers need to fill the jobs we are creating. A strong background in STEM skills is a key part of that preparation.”

STEM Schools are unique in that they will follow key design principles including: inquiry-based science and math education; integrated curriculum; project-based group learning and career awareness. STEM Network Schools will receive resources, including a \$30,000 grant over three years and a STEM Coordinator Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA), to become demonstration sites for innovative STEM practices that boost student achievement. The Network consists of eight secondary schools (middle and high schools) identified through a rigorous selection process. Each school will develop and implement a school-based STEM Plan. The plans enhance the schools’ current STEM efforts by enriching STEM curriculum and instruction, strengthening STEM business partnerships and identifying resources to build capacity over the course of the three year project. Participating STEM Network Schools include:

- Edison Middle School, Wood County
- George Washington High School, Kanawha County
- Greenbrier East High School, Greenbrier County
- Sherrard Middle School, Marshall County
- Spring Mills High School, Berkeley County
- Tucker County High School, Tucker County
- Warwood School, Ohio County
- Wheeling Park High School, Ohio County

“Together, these schools will help “raise the bar” in STEM education and produce a model for statewide replication,” said Dr. Amelia Courts, president and chief executive officer of The Education Alliance. “Throughout the next three years, the STEM Network Schools program will touch thousands of educators, families and students across the state. The Education Alliance looks forward to seeing the innovative ways these schools will enhance their instruction make a long-term, measurable difference to educate and support West Virginia students.”

The STEM Network Schools program is made possible by the BelleJAR Foundation, the Chevron Foundation, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the Corporation for National and Community Service, The Ross Foundation, and Southwestern Energy. For more information, visit EducationAlliance.org/STEMschools or contact Emily Pratt at 304-342-7850 or emily@educationalliance.org.

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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