

Amelia Courts, Ed.D.

Dr. Amelia Courts has extensive leadership experience in the education sector and a record of success in collaborating with business and community organizations to positively impact statewide initiatives. Since 2013 she has served as the President/CEO of The Education Alliance which operates programs and advances policies to improve achievement by public school students in West Virginia.

In her role as President, Dr. Courts is leading the Alliance to implement strategies that expand the organizational footprint and effectiveness. These include hosting the organization's first education summit, co-sponsored by the Governor, which convened business, community and education leaders from across the state. Dr. Courts also initiated statewide EDTalks, an education-based speaker series that promotes innovative discussion and big ideas about connecting education, jobs and West Virginia's future. The Alliance also provided technical assistance to the Governor's STEM Council to engage the public, education organizations, business and industry to find innovative methods of preparing our students to fill the impending workforce needs of the state. In addition, she worked to help support an expansion of the AmeriCorps program which nearly doubled the number of AmeriCorps members impacting students across the state.

Prior to coming to the Alliance, she served for three years as Assistant State Superintendent at the West Virginia Department of Education. In that work, she developed and implemented major policy directives, worked collaboratively with the governor's office and legislature, and coordinated programs to improve the educational outcomes of the state's two hundred and eighty thousand students.

Dr. Courts serves on the Board of Directors of the WV Children's Home Society, is a member of the Remake Learning Council, and serves as an appointed member of the Education Commission of the States. She is both internationally and locally experienced, having taught English as a Second Language (ESL) for approximately six years throughout Asia (Japan, China and briefly Korea) and at Marshall University. She completed her doctoral degree at West Virginia University with a degree in Education Administration in 2002.

David May, Ph.D.

David is the Senior STEM Equity Specialist at The Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Inc. He has over 16 years' experience in K-20 science education and has worked on professional development, curriculum and program design, project management, research, and evaluation. David is leading MAEC's work in STEM equity by through strategic planning, program design, and evaluation of in- and out-of-school time programs to help all students benefit from the power of STEM. David also works part time at the University System of Maryland, where he is Project Director of a National Science Foundation partnership grant. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Math and Physics from Earlham College, a Master's in Physics and Astronomy from the University of Rochester, and a Ph.D. in Physics from Ohio State University.

Jason Brown

Jason Brown, Director of Science and Education at Carnegie Science Center, has earned an undergraduate degree in physics from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in New York, a Pennsylvania teaching certificate in physics, general science, and earth and space sciences, an MBA, and a Master's Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Technologies and New Literacies. During his eleven years in the classroom, he taught high school science (physics, geology, astronomy, environmental science, Project Lead The Way) and middle school technology, as well as serving as an Assistant Professor in the Construction Management and Architecture programs at the State University of New York. He also spent six years as a builder and residential construction project manager with a focus on building science, energy efficiency and sustainable building practices. Furthermore, he has developed and led professional learning opportunities in the areas of technology, behavior management, STEM Education best-practices, and the utilization of online and digital resources in instruction.

Lawrence Malone

Larry Malone is Director of Policy for West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. He joined the Governor's senior team in October 2014, and in this role Malone develops and directs policy matters and initiatives for the Governor. In particular, Malone advises on workforce, education, economic development, health care, entrepreneurship, transportation, broadband and energy matters.

Prior to this he was the owner of Malone Consulting Services, a specialty communications firm based in Charleston, West Virginia. Malone provided his clients with nearly 30 years of experience in all facets of communications, public relations, issue management and marketing.

Charles Patton

Charles Patton is president and chief operating officer of Appalachian Power, serving approximately 1 million customers in West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee. Patton has approximately 30 years in the electric utility business and has served in numerous capacities throughout AEP.

Previously, Patton served in Columbus at the parent company headquarters of American Electric Power as executive vice president – AEP Utilities West and senior vice president – Regulatory and Public Policy. Prior to these roles, a significant amount of Patton's career was in Texas where he served as president and chief operating officer of AEP Texas as well as in other executive positions.

As president of Appalachian Power, Patton has been appointed by West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin to chair the state's Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Council,

charged with advancing STEM education in West Virginia. He also has been appointed by Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe to serve on the Climate Change and Resiliency Commission.

Patton has served and chaired numerous professional and civic organizations in the communities in which he has lived. Charles and his family live in Charleston, W.Va., where he currently serves on the boards of the University of Charleston, The Education Alliance, the West Virginia Regional Technology Park and the Buckskin Council of the Boy Scouts of America. At AEP, he is an executive sponsor of the African-American Employee Resource Group (AAERG).

He is an undergraduate of Bowdoin College, located in Brunswick, Maine, and holds a graduate degree from The University of Texas LBJ School of Public Policy.

Michael Martirano, Ed.D.

Dr. Michael Martirano began serving as West Virginia's 30th state superintendent of schools in September 2014. Martirano has been an educator for 30 years and has amassed a wide range of educational and administrative experience through his work as a science teacher, principal and visiting professor at John Hopkins University. Most recently, he served as superintendent of St. Mary's County Public Schools in Leonardtown, Maryland where during his tenure the 4-year graduation rate increased from the low 80s to an all-time high of 93.5%.

As a risk-taker and innovator, he consistently focuses his energy on improving academic success and building positive relationships. He was selected the 2009 Superintendent of the Year in Maryland and a 2010 Innovator of the Year by the Maryland Daily Record. Recently, he was named as a "Chief Making A Difference" for the 2nd Annual Smart List Awards for the 40 people shaping the Future of K-12 Education in America.

Martirano holds a Doctorate of Education degree in school management and instructional leadership from Nova Southeastern University, two Masters of Education degrees and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland.\