



Annual Report
2005-2006

**Bringing Innovation
to Public Education**

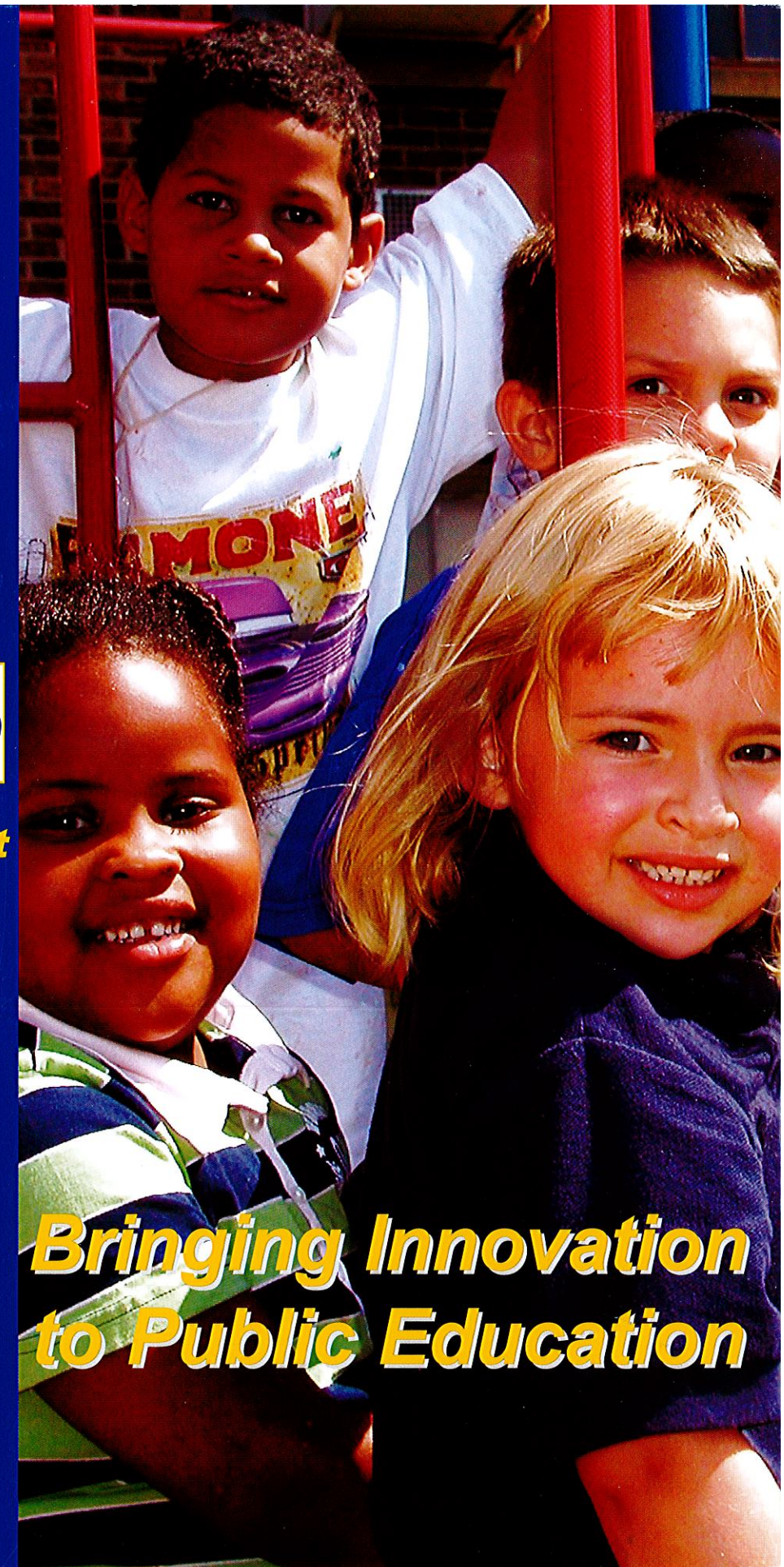


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Director of Development

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WV State Scholars Director

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Program Coordinator

Tammy L. Thomas
Bookkeeper



COVER PHOTO: A group of kindergarten students from Glenwood Elementary School in Charleston, W.Va., are featured on the cover of this year's annual report.



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A Message from our Board Chairman & President

Dear Friends,

A wise person once said... "Take good care of the future because that's where you're going to spend the rest of your life." The same should be said about public education. Simply put, The Education Alliance has a sense of urgency in its mission that extends to the goals we set, the way we operate and the standards to which we hold ourselves.

We are committed to preparing our youth for a better tomorrow—one with more opportunities and an even stronger educational system. But as we work toward the future, The Education Alliance also seeks to honor those who share the same goals for the State of West Virginia.

In 1999, The Education Alliance inducted its inaugural class into the Graduates of Distinction—Country Music Artist Kathy Mattea and Senator and Mrs. Robert C. Byrd. It is hard to believe that this program commemorated its eighth year in 2006 with the addition of three more noteworthy graduates. First Lady Gayle Manchin was honored for her passionate dedication to public education in the Mountain State, Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. emerged from Mineral County to become one of the leading African-American scholars in the nation and Mrs. Anna McCloy became a representative for all West Virginians as she dealt with the intense media spotlight surrounding her husband—the sole Sago Mine disaster survivor.

Also this year, we were very proud to be celebrating our 22nd anniversary with Speaker of the House Robert S. Kiss. A commitment and dedication to education in West Virginia has been his passion since he joined the House of Delegates in 1989. This was an opportunity for The Education Alliance to say "thanks" to Speaker Kiss before his retirement in 2007. He will be greatly missed in West Virginia politics.

A look back over the past year serves as an important measure of how far we've come, what we've accomplished and why we continue to do what we do. We hope that as you read about our work, you will share our belief in the power of public education and invest your own energies in the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead. We are making great progress because of the caring support from our donors, and we would not be here without you. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

John Ruddick

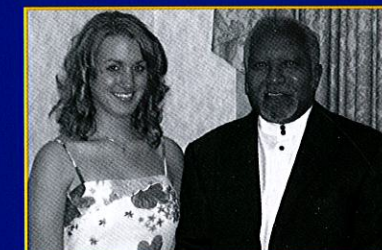
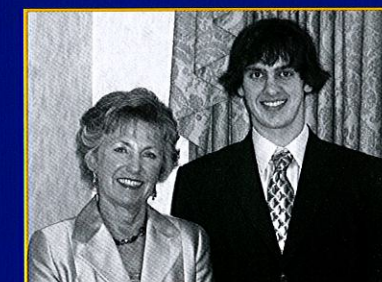
Mr. John Ruddick
Chairman, Board of Directors

Hazel K. Palmer

Dr. Hazel K. Palmer
President/CEO



Speaker of the House Robert S. Kiss chats with A. Michael and Henriella Perry before The Education Alliance's 2005 annual dinner.

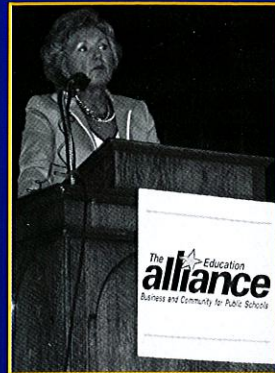


Top: First Lady Gayle Manchin poses with her Graduate escort, Brian Shorts, from Woodrow Wilson High School.

Center: Graduate escort Gina Corley, a Keyser High School senior, meets Mayor of Piedmont Ebby Gilmore, who represented Dr. Henry Gates Jr. at the 2006 Graduates of Distinction luncheon.

Bottom: Honoree Anna McCloy is pictured with Joseph Walden of Grafton High School, who served as her graduate escort.

Striving for Success with State Scholars



First Lady Gayle Manchin addressed the more than 1,000 Wood County eighth graders, teachers and stakeholders who attended the program's statewide kickoff held Sept. 1 at Parkersburg High School.



During the kickoff, the eighth graders were introduced to the program designed to improve their high school experience and beyond.



Stakeholders from across the state met with Gail Schwartz of the U.S. Department of Education and Terese Rainwater of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education at the Blennerhasset Hotel in Parkersburg before the kick-off.

West Virginia joined seven other new states in the State Scholars Initiative Network in April 2006, bringing the national total to 22 states. This important initiative brings business leaders into classrooms where they work with educators to motivate students to complete a rigorous course of study in high school. This is particularly important because research shows that students who succeed in challenging courses are more likely to do better on standardized tests and succeed in whatever post-secondary path they choose.

With an established 23-year commitment to advancing education policy and practice in the Mountain State through business/education partnerships, The Education Alliance is poised to implement the State Scholars Initiative first in four pilot counties, Braxton, Monroe, Ohio and Wood, and then statewide. The Education Alliance already hosts a digital consortium of stakeholders who are interested in implementing education reform so that all children get the support they need to succeed as a citizen, a worker and leader in the 21st century and will provide support for this program.

"We are proud to be the second state in the nation to join the 21st Century Skills Partnership because of our deep commitment to make certain our high school graduates have the skills needed to be successful in the global marketplace. The State Scholars program will be an essential part of the framework needed to achieve this goal."
 Joe Manchin III
 West Virginia Governor

"The West Virginia Department of Education and The Education Alliance enjoy a long-standing successful partnership in implementing school reform in West Virginia. I would be pleased, once again, to join forces with the Alliance in improving the quality of education in West Virginia's high schools."
 Steven L. Paine
 State Superintendent of Schools

Business leaders will be speaking with every eighth grade class in the four pilot counties, walking students through a typical budget and helping them understand the impact rigorous course work and post-secondary education will have on their future earnings and attainment of personal goals. A careful third-party evaluation will help measure the success of the initiative and provide specific feedback to make improvements.

The State Scholars Initiative is supported under the PR/Award Number V051U05006 as administered by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education or the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

A MEMBER OF THE STATE SCHOLARS INITIATIVE NATIONAL NETWORK



A scholar today...a success tomorrow!

Building Relationships through Partnerships

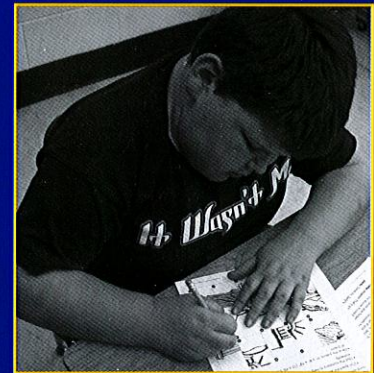
Of the more than 2.2 million children eligible for tutoring under the No Child Left Behind legislation, only 19 percent of them received it during the 2004-2005 school year, according to a congressional Government Accountability report. The Education Alliance's Results-based Partnerships in Education initiative (RBP) seeks out and helps these students in West Virginia. Since 2003, students in many West Virginia schools have experienced significant improvements in areas such as reading, writing, math and attendance after participating in the Results-Based Partnership program of The Education Alliance, sponsored by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and Charleston Area Alliance.

The RBP program examines the effectiveness of tutoring and mentoring on academic achievement for the past three years. While the partnerships and projects studied were as varied as the schools that participated, the overall results showed that business partnerships can make a difference in learning for individual students. When children, many of whom were considered to be "at-risk," experienced additional human resources and attention, the improvements produced in most projects are statistically significant.

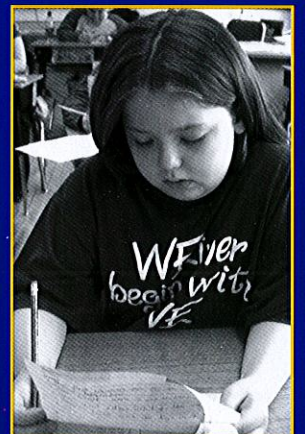
All 15 schools in the Alliance's 2005-06 study reported gains in student reading and/or math achievement. Those schools that reported quantitative results all showed statistically significant increases. It is obvious from this study, as well as supporting data from preceding years, that school-business partnership mentoring/tutoring activities make significant contributions to student achievement.

Cumulatively, the past three years of study have collected both qualitative and quantitative data related to increasing achievement for students that were not performing on-level. Overwhelmingly these students have not only increased their achievement, but the experiences as reported by the volunteers and teachers indicate that students have increased in confidence and self-esteem.

The following schools participated in the RBP program during 2005-2006: Rainelle Elementary School (Greenbrier County); Cedar Grove Community, Dupont Middle, East Bank Middle, George C. Weimer Elementary, Glenwood Elementary, Herbert Hoover High, J.E. Robins Elementary, Stonewall Jackson Middle, Watts Elementary, Weberwood Elementary and Worthington Elementary schools (Kanawha County); Sherrard Junior High School (Marshall County); Daybrook Elementary and Amettsville Elementary schools (Monongalia County); and Worthington Elementary School (Wood County).



Business volunteers help students in their schools complete homework assignments and understand concepts. The additional help provided through the RBP program encourages student excellence in the classroom.



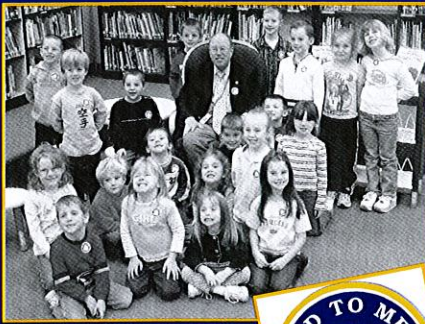
Results-based partnerships work hard with students and businesses to improve school-specific performance criteria from attendance rates to standardized test scores.

At Left: Michael Austin, of Huntington Banks, tutors students at Stonewall Jackson Middle School in Charleston, W.Va.

Learning through Family Literacy



Dave Spigelmyer of Equitable Resources is pictured above with the book, *Take Me Home, Country Roads*, funded by his company. This book was read to students across West Virginia during 2005 Read to Me! Day celebrations.



Wood County Superintendent Bill Niday reads to a group of kindergarten students at Mineral Wells Elementary School.



Four students make last-minute adjustments to their pumpkin apparatus before stepping up to the platform to make their drop.

Family Literacy seeks to motivate children to want to read. The most important components of the program are enthusiastic readers, eager listeners and interesting books. Research has shown that students who have access to interesting books are more likely to spend time reading.

Book Trunks

A generous grant this year from the West Virginia Literacy Foundation enabled The Education Alliance to purchase new books and materials for its book trunks. These book trunks are available free of charge to any West Virginia public school requesting reading materials. Book trunks contain an average of 70 books and may be kept as long as three months. The school may request trunks for grades Pre-K; K-2; 3-5 or 6-8. The Education Alliance can also prepare trunks for specific needs such as math/science, partner reading, or cultural and history to name just a few.

Read to Me! Day

Read to Me! Day was held Thursday, November 17, 2005, thanks to the generous contribution of Equitable Resources, the event's sponsor for the past three years. The day brings focus to the pleasures and benefits from a practice of reading aloud to young children. Nearly 150 schools participated, making it possible for more than 2,000 volunteers to read to nearly 38,000 children throughout the state. A special book, *Take Me Home, Country Roads*, was provided to all participating schools, and was accompanied with a special CD by John Denver featuring the popular song.

The main event: Smashing Pumpkins

West Virginia students combine their math and science skills to build a pumpkin container that can survive the Drop

Nearly 500 students participated in the Eighth Annual Capital City Pumpkin drop held on October 20, 2005, at the Capitol Complex in Charleston. This event has been proudly sponsored by Bayer CropScience since its inception in 1997.

There were 87 pumpkins dropped that day by 18 schools from 13 different counties. Representatives from the West Virginia University College of Engineering and Mineral Resources judged the entries and were pleased to report that 22 pumpkins survived the three-story drop.

The 2005 winners were:

- First Place – Independence High School, Raleigh County
- Second Place – Doddridge County Middle School, Doddridge County
- Third Place – John Adams Middle School, Kanawha County

Creating Opportunities with Education Grants

Mini-Grants for Classroom Projects

As The Education Alliance's oldest program, Mini-Grants for Classroom Projects has continued to aid teachers across the state in need of additional funding for new, innovative projects. Twenty-two years since its inception, the mini-grant program has awarded more than \$1.1 million to more than 4,000 teachers statewide willing to take the initiative to better their students' classroom experiences.

In 2005-2006, Columbia Gas Transmission, Mylan Charitable Foundation, TOYOTA Motor Manufacturing of West Virginia, Inc., West Virginia Humanities Council and the Huntington Foundation, Inc. made it possible for West Virginia students to engage in new classroom projects. Three new funders also committed to supporting public education through mini-grants—the Carter Family Foundation, State Farm Insurance Companies and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. In all, the support of these organizations funded 124 grants in 45 West Virginia counties totaling \$61,384.22, a record amount for the program.

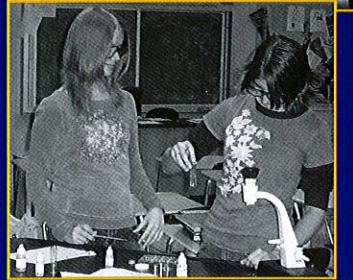
The Education Alliance continued to work to establish interest in the mini-grant program in each of the 55 counties and all eight Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) regions. Based on the applications received in 2005, RESA III, comprising Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam counties, had the most applications, with 50 of the 242 coming from that region. Next, were RESA I with 45 and RESA IV with 38 applications.

The Education Alliance looks to 2006-2007 with renewed enthusiasm for the program as it doubles the maximum amount of awarded money to \$1,000 per project and unveils a new online version of the application.

Family Involvement Grants

The Education Alliance maintains that parent involvement in student education has a profound impact on student success. Dow Chemical Company continued its funding of the Family Involvement Grant program, awarding seven teachers across the state \$1,000 each to carry out initiatives in their schools.

From Family First Reading Nights in Kanawha County to Soundseeing Tour of Queen's Point Cemetery in Mineral County to Families Achieving the New Standards in Math in Fayette County, the 2005-2006 Family Involvement winners exemplified cooperative programming that incorporates parents, children and schools.



Top Right: Two students from Benu Nanda's advanced chemistry classes at Summers County High School are pictured collecting water samples from the New River atop Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Bottom Left: After collecting their samples, these students from Nanda's class analyzed them in the laboratory for common river pollutants.



As part of a 2005 mini-grant project awarded to teacher Donnetta Rainwater, these sixth grade students from Logan Middle School dissected owl pellets. The students worked in groups to identify materials found in their pellets and used a bone sorting chart to help them identify the remains.

By the Numbers...

2005-2006 stats and figures for all the programs and initiatives that help The Education Alliance serve the students of West Virginia

Book Trunks

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Trunks available | 20 |
| Average number per trunk | 70 |

Community Involvement

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Board members | 40 |
| Contributors to the Alliance | 111 |
| Apples distributed | 93 |

Family Involvement Grants

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Grants awarded | 10 |
| Applications submitted | 20 |

Mini-Grants for Classroom Projects

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Grants awarded | 124 |
| Applications submitted | 242 |
| Workshops hosted | 3 |

Partnerships in Education

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| School-business partnerships | 2,435 |
| RBP grants awarded | 2 |

Pumpkin Drop

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Drops | 87 |
| Participating students | 471 |
| Participating schools | 18 |
| Surviving dropped pumpkins | 22 |

Read to Me! Day

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Students read to | 37,115 |
| Volunteer readers | 2,103 |
| Participating schools | 142 |

Research

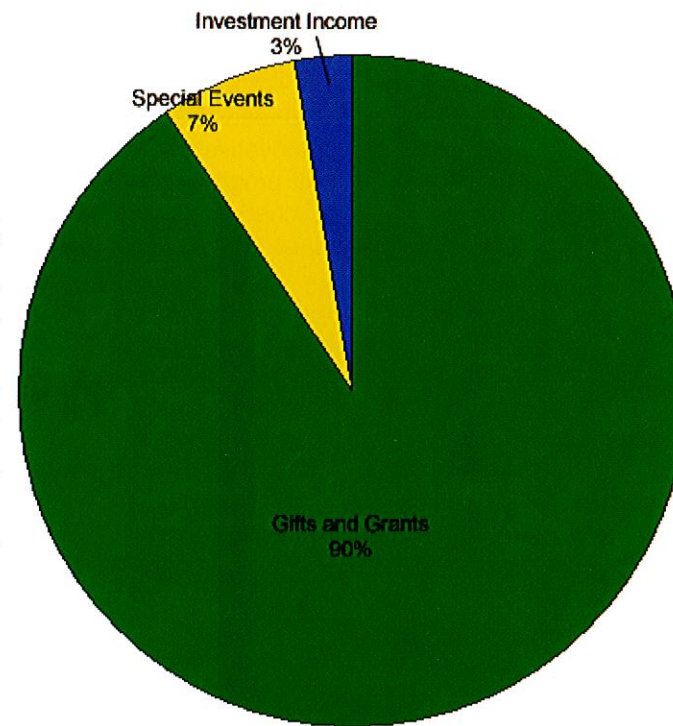
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| Research reports released | 4 |
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State Scholars

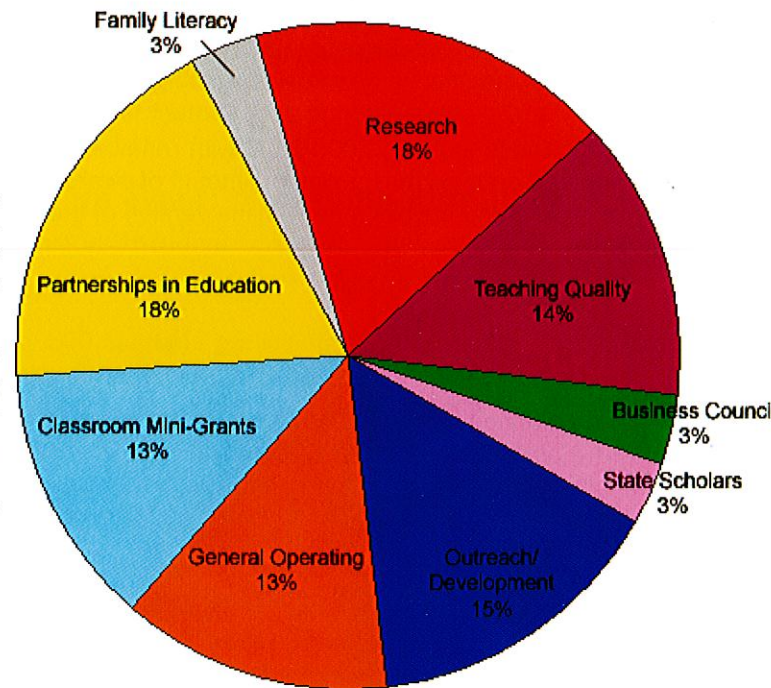
| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Participating schools | 18 |
| Participating businesses | 23 |

2005-2006 Financial Report

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The Education Alliance's auditor, Gray, Griffith & Mays, A.C., has issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2006. The complete audited financial statements may be found on our Web site at www.educationalalliance.org and are available upon request.

Innovation through Research

Research has the ability to offer valuable insight and support on important issues that affect West Virginia students. For The Education Alliance, all research efforts are directed at proactively supplying knowledge, information, recommendations and best practices to advocacy groups, parents, business leaders, teacher unions, public officials, educators and school boards, as it constantly strives to improve student achievement for all children in West Virginia.

Within that context, this year has been pivotal for The Education Alliance. It was proud to present the following two research summaries and two original research studies in 2005-2006: West Virginia Middle School Students Speak Out About the Achievement Gap in October 2005, Closing the Achievement Gap: Integrating Technology in the K-12 Classroom: Implications for Public Policy in November 2005, Through Different Lenses: West Virginia School Staff and Students React to School Climate in spring 2006 and Closing the Achievement Gap: Providing High Quality Teachers for Low-Performing and At-Risk Schools in winter 2006.

The two original pieces, West Virginia Middle School Student Speak Out and Through Different Lenses, were conducted and published by The Education Alliance and both received significant statewide recognition. Additionally, the second research study, Through Different Lenses, was covered in the May 10, 2006, issue of Education Week. The Lenses report also was unveiled at a stakeholder and media event hosted by Jackson Kelly PLLC.

Perhaps, though, it is most important to note that this research has influenced professional development strategies for teachers and helped activate community involvement on behalf of minority and poor children. As a result, Marshall University, Cabell County Schools, Cabell/Huntington NAACP and the Black Ministerial Association later hosted a forum at the university to discuss this original research study, and a community committee was formed to continue to address the issues raised during the meeting.

Several schools and one entire school district requested additional copies of the research summaries to use as tools for teacher professional development. The West Virginia Department of Education and the Center for Professional Development are also rethinking professional development for teachers, in part, because of the Alliance's research findings.

The research initiatives of The Education Alliance would not be possible without support from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation.

To sign up for Alliance research publications by e-mail feature, visit the Web site at www.educationalalliance.org or call 1 (866) 314-5437.

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Integrating Technology
in the K-12 Classroom:
Implications for Public Policy

The Education
alliance
Business and Community for Public Schools

Funding provided by the
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

November 2005

West Virginia
Middle School Students
Speak Out About
The Achievement Gap

An original research study by
The Education
alliance
Business and Community for Public Schools
October 2005



Contributing to Education in West Virginia



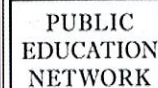
Christina Matlick from Mylan Charitable Foundation presents Dr. Hazel Palmer of The Education Alliance with Mylan's donation for the Math/Science Mini-Grants program.



Representatives from RUDD Equipment Company show their support of The Education Alliance with their December 2005 donation.



Robin Ollis, Sherry Riley and Plant Manager Bill Hopkins from DuPont Washington Works proudly display their full set of Blenko Glass Apples. The apple legacy was first started in 2001 as a way of recognizing donors of The Education Alliance.



The Education Alliance is a proud member of the Public Education Network.

Featured Friends from Across the State

MYLAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION Morgantown, West Virginia

This organization began its support of the Math/Science Mini-Grants for Teachers in 2002 and has become the Alliance's largest supporter of these mini-grants. Its parent company, Mylan Pharmaceuticals, was founded in 1961 as one of the first affordable alternatives to name-brand prescription drugs. Today, it is the #1 U.S.-based manufacturer of generic pharmaceutical products.

RUDD EQUIPMENT COMPANY Nitro, West Virginia

This company's employees actually visited The Education Alliance in 2001 to make their donation to public education in West Virginia in a personal way. Today, they are one of the Alliance's most loyal donors. The company was founded in 1952 as a distributor of construction and mining equipment. From just five employees, the company has grown to include 10 branch locations in six different states.

DUPONT WASHINGTON WORKS Washington, West Virginia

As one of The Education Alliance's oldest donors, DuPont offered their first gift in 1987 and has not missed a year of giving since that time. The local plant in Wood County, W.Va., was opened in January 1948 with just 171 employees, who produced 1,782 pounds of nylon filament during their first month. Today, it employs more than 1,800 employees and produces up to 700 million pounds of product annually.

2005-2006 Contributors

Founder's Circle (\$100,000 and above)

Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

Leaders' Circle (\$25,000 - \$99,000)

Columbia Gas Transmission
The Dow Chemical Foundation
Mylan Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation
Public Education Network

Major Benefactors (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Appalachian Power
The Bernard H. and Blanche E. Jacobson Foundation
Carter Family Foundation
Charleston Area Alliance
The Daywood Foundation, Inc.
West Virginia Literacy Foundation

Special Benefactors (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Bernard McDonough Foundation, Inc.
Constellation Energy Group, Big Sandy Power Plant
Craig Real Estate Corp./Mountain State Properties
Dominion Foundation, Inc.
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International Coal Group, LLC
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Mr. Menis Ketchum

Mr. William McDavid
The Phillips Group
Mr. Tom L. Pressman
Mrs. Wanda Simpkins
Mr. and Mrs. I.N. "Ike" Smith

In-Kind Contributions

Blenko Glass Company
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Jackson Kelly PLLC

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The Media Center
The State Journal



School
Business
Community
Labor