

## PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE



## MESSAGE

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND PRESIDENT/CEO

The 2018 Annual Report marks a momentous time in the history of The Education Alliance as we prepare to celebrate the organization's 35th year anniversary. The report highlights the profound impact of business and community collaboration and support for public education throughout the past year. Our theme, **"Partnering for the Future"** reflects a look back at the successes of the 2017-18 school year as well as a look ahead to the upcoming anniversary celebration. It illustrates our belief that through teamwork and collaboration, West Virginians can work together to improve our students' success and to grow our state's future.

The Education Alliance is 100% committed to mobilizing business and community **partnerships to support schools and to improve student outcomes.** Under the direction of the Board of Directors, we adopted a new strategic plan that aims to support 1,000 new partnerships by 2020. This report provides rich data that highlights how our programs and partnerships have moved the needle toward those strategic goals in this past year.

We believe that every West Virginia student *can and should* graduate ready to begin a career or pursue additional education and training. Our efforts to promote **Partnerships for the Future** are rooted in this vision. While we acknowledge there are many challenges facing students across the state, we believe that programs such as our AmeriCorps on the Frontline dropout prevention initiative, our STEM Network Schools programs, and the Born Learning early literacy program provide a clear roadmap of **Partnerships for the Future**. These initiatives are shining examples of coalitions that equip students for success.

Please take a moment to share in our progress as you read the success stories about the individual lives our organization is touching. We want to thank our Board of Directors and the state's business and community partners for their leadership and demonstrated commitment to education. Together, we can strengthen and grow Partnerships for the Future of our students and our state.

Sincerely,



Al Conty

Amelia Courts, Ed.D. President/CEO



Butt-K. Styles\_

Brett Staples Chairman of the Board



#### **Mission**

The Education Alliance is an independent voice, earnest advocate, and statewide participant that advances policies and practices to continually improve public school student achievement in West Virginia.

#### **Vision**

Every West Virginia public school student will graduate ready to begin a career or pursue additional education and training.

#### History

The Education Alliance is a nonprofit organization that advocates for a quality public education for all West Virginia children. It was established in July 1983 by business executives who saw the importance of supporting public schools and giving the business community a voice in education. As a nonprofit organization, it is supported 100 percent by grants and donations from businesses and individuals.

#### **Strategic Goals**

From the Partnerships in Education program in the 1980s to our current programs, The Education Alliance has continually placed students first and supported higher levels of excellence from our public education system. From the very beginning, business and community partners have been the key to the organization. Without these dedicated men and women, The Education Alliance would not be where it is today. Together with our partners, we look forward to a strong collaboration to improve public education in West Virginia.

## **PARTNERING** FOR THE FUTURE

The theme of the 2018 Annual Report is Partnering for the Future. This theme resonates beyond the current school year. As we prepare to celebrate the organization's 35th anniversary and implement an ambitious new strategic plan, this report highlights some key data about the impact of our partnerships. The Education Alliance is effectively mobilizing business and community partnerships to support schools and to improve student outcomes:

## 40,000

Students served annually through **Partnerships** 

# 2,400

More than 2,400 volunteers **Partnered** to provide more than 46,000 hours of service

## 850

Matched more than 850 students with a caring adult role model **Parinering** to provide more than 23,000 mentoring sessions

96%

Business **Partners** paired with 96 percent of West Virginia schools



**Pariners** provided more than \$1.5 million in resources leveraged directly to West Virginia schools



National **Partnerships** providing sound research and public dialogue about education



## **AmeriCorps on the Frontline**

AmeriCorps on the Frontline connects at risk-students with local mentors to help the students grow in meaningful ways, particularly in the areas of attendance, behavior, and course performance. This connection helps the students realize that success is possible despite negative situations they might currently be facing.

**Parliners**: Bob Burdette Center, Charleston Family Resource Center, Jefferson County Schools, Kump Education Center, Monroe County Schools, Pleasants County Schools, Step by Step, United Way of the River Cities, and Wood County Schools. Major funding for this program was provided by Volunteer West Virginia with support from Enterprise Holdings Foundation, the Fenton Foundation, the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation, and the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation.

**Impacting the Future:** This program enables 35 AmeriCorps mentors to provide more than 22,000 mentoring sessions to 830 at-risk students in grades 3-12. These sessions help students develop positive attitudes towards school and learning, problem solving, social skills, note taking, homework help and time management. Mentors leveraged the support of 400 community volunteers from local business and community organizations to engage students in job-shadowing activities and extended learning opportunities.

## Of the students who participated in the AmeriCorps on the Frontline program this year:

**640/0** improved or maintained attendance

760/0 improved or maintained in behavior **750**/0 improved or maintained in course performance



#### **AmeriCorps on the Frontline Schools:**

Belmont Elementary School (Pleasants) Chapmanville Middle School (Logan) Chapmanville Regional High School (Logan) Charles Town Middle School (Jefferson) Crum Middle School (Wayne) Edgewood Elementary School (Kanawha) Elkins Middle School (Randolph) Fairplains Elementary School (Wood) Fort Gay PK-8 School (Wayne) Grandview Elementary School (Kanawha) Guyan Vally Middle School (Lincoln) Hamlin PK-8 (Lincoln) Harpers Ferry Middle School (Jefferson) Highlawn Elementary School (Cabell) Huntington Middle School (Cabell) James Monroe High School (Monroe) Lincoln County High School (Lincoln) Man Elementary School (Logan)

Martin Elementary School (Wood) Mary C. Snow Westside Elementary School (Kanawha) Milton Middle School (Cabell) Mountain View Elementary & Middle School (Monroe) North Elementary School (Randolph) **Opportunity Learning Center (Jefferson)** Peterstown Elementary School (Monroe) Peterstown Middle School (Monroe) Piedmont Elementary School (Kanawha) Pleasants County Middle School (Pleasants) Shepherdstown Middle School (Jefferson) St. Marys Elementary School (Pleasants) St. Marys High School (Pleasants) Stonewall Jackson Middle School (Kanawha) Wildwood Middle School (Jefferson) Williamstown Elementary School (Wood) Williamstown High School (Wood)

### **Make Cents WV**

MakeCentsWV.org is a tool for educators, students and families seeking resources to strengthen Financial Literacy. The website was launched in 2017 and serves as a "clearinghouse" for existing resources, such as lesson plans and games that promote wise and informed financial choices by learning how to increase savings, improve credit, and build assets.

**Parliners:** MakeCentsWV.org was developed collaboratively with partners from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office, West Virginia State Auditor's Office, West Virginia Bankers Association, and the West Virginia Department of Education.

**Impacting the Future:** The partners have collaborated to support a High School Financial Literacy pilot program. During the 2018-19 school year, three schools will receive funding and support to conduct a basic self-assessment of existing financial literacy programs and practices. They will receive training, support and resources to strengthen their students' personal finance skills.

### **Why Financial Literacy Matters:**

31%

of students who dropout of college do so for financial reasons. had over \$1,000 in credit card debt before getting to

had over \$5,000 in credit card debt, and had late states require a financial literacy course in high schools. Students who take this course score significantly higher and are significantly more responsible in their behaviors, are more cautious, are less fixated on positions, and are more averse to incurring debt



## **United Way Born Learning Academy**

United Way Born Learning Academy, funded by Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia, Inc. and The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, creates opportunities for families of young children to connect with local schools during the critical period of early learning prior to school enrollment. As part of the program, families participate in six engaging academies where they learn how to create teachable moments with their children.

Partilers: The Born Learning program is offered in partnership with Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Local United Ways, the West Virginia Department of Education, and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. Toyota's continued support, along with the ongoing support of The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, has made it possible to expand the program to three additional schools during the 2018-19 school year.

**Impacting the Future:** This year, more than 250 parents and caregivers from 13 schools came together to participate in hands-on activities and discussions about what it means to be ready for kindergarten and how they can implement strategies to maximize their child's early learning and development. Studies show that 90 percent of a child's brain development occurs before age five. Additionally, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times less likely to graduate high school than those who read at a proficient level. The Born Learning Academy is continuing to empower families to create a better future for their children.

#### **Born Learning Academy Schools:**

Aurora Elementary School (Preston) Blackshere Elementary School (Marion) Bridge-Clendenin Elementary School (Kanawha) Brookview Elementary School (Boone) Buffalo Elementary School (Putnam) Hamlin PK8 (Lincoln) Highlawn Elementary School (Cabell) Hometown Elementary School (Putnam) Leon Elementary School (Mason) Mylan Park Elementary School (Monongalia) New Manchester Elementary School (Hancock) Poca Elementary School (Putnam) Tuscarora Elementary School (Berkeley)

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of participating parents /caregivers recognize the key role of their child's health in being ready and able to learn.

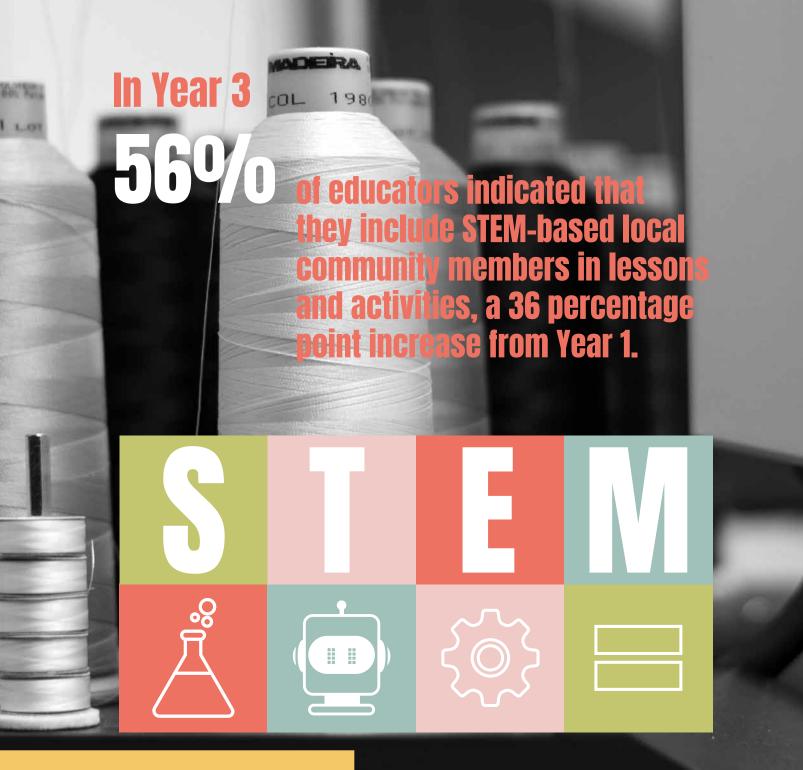
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### **Partnerships in Education**

The Partnerships in Education initiative supports and recognizes local schools and districts in the development of strategic partnerships with local businesses and community organizations.

Factories: This year, The Education Alliance has continued its support of the Partnerships in Education program through implementation in all 55 school districts. We are laying the groundwork to launch a new initiative in the coming year to create resources and supports to cultivate new, meaningful partnerships with the goal of improving student achievement and success. We hope to increase and promote the value of meaningful partnerships across the state in the coming year.

impacting the future: A strong, skilled, and resilient workforce is vital to West Virginia's future. Ensuring a strong link between our education system and our business community is critical in this effort. West Virginia business leaders consistently report the need for the state to develop its workforce and, therefore, strengthen its education system to meet the needs of our state's shifting economy. The ability to find the skilled and productive employees necessary to succeed in increasingly competitive global markets is a growing challenge for West Virginia businesses. Through strong, strategic, and intentional partnerships, our schools have the potential, perhaps as never before, to prepare students with knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the workforce and to make themselves and West Virginia more prosperous.



## **STEM Network Schools**

STEM Network Schools are transforming students' futures by enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. Participating schools incorporated best practices to increase student engagement in STEM education, strengthen school-wide STEM instruction and expand business and community STEM partnerships. The goal of the STEM Network School program is to increase student engagement in STEM learning, enhance school-wide STEM instruction, and expand meaningful STEM partnerships.

**Partners:** This initiative invested \$1 million dollars in eight schools over the course of three years through generous contributions from the BelleJAR Foundation; Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation; Chevron; the Corporation for National and Community Service; the Governor's Statewide STEM initiative; the Ross Foundation; and Southwestern Energy.

**Impacting the Future:** Through this project, participating schools leveraged an additional \$2.8 million dollars to support STEM education, trained 1,500 teachers on STEM practices, and partnered with 550 businesses to offer job-shadowing activities and extended learning opportunities for students.

#### **STEM Network Schools:**

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



### of students indicated that they participated in an organization or club that promotes STEM learning, a 32 percentage point increase from Year 1.

In Year 3

-**1**+0/n



STEM Works is The Education Alliance's broad effort to grow West Virginia's workforce readiness for everincreasing STEM-related careers through teacher professional development, engaging students in contests and competitions, supporting Makerspace initiatives, and collaborating with statewide business, community and education partners.

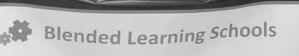
Factures: Through partnerships with industry leaders and private foundations, the STEM Works initiative saw advances in three areas of work: teacher professional development, student engagement, and STEM partnerships.

#### Impacting the Future: Professional Development for Teachers

STEMerison Summer Seminar: This year, The Education Alliance partnered with two national non-profit organizations working to support teachers and students in career readiness for a STEM based professional development. The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and Teach to Lead conducted a STEMersion Summer Seminar. The STEMersion Seminar was designed to support teachers with free, high quality resources to incubate ideas and plans for infusing real world STEM experiences in the classroom. 100 West Virginia middle and high school STEM educators spent the day participating in high quality STEM professional development with teams of teachers, principals and STEM business leaders. The educators received free resources aligned to national science frameworks/NGSS provided by ASCD, the 114th Partnership, Toyota USA Foundation and The Education Alliance.

#### Engaging Students in STEM

Energizing steM: The Education Alliance, in partnership with Imagine Learning, is launching Energizing steM to help young students build a strong foundation in math and engage older students, their families and community members by raising awareness of STEM careers. The project will provide 2,200 elementary students in Lincoln and Logan counties with an effective computer-based supplemental curriculum to improve math outcomes over a three-year period. A strong math foundation will enable students to be better prepared for high school success in STEM classes.





#### **Energizing STEM Schools:**

Ross and

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Buffalo Elementary School (Logan) Duval PK-8 School (Lincoln) East Chapmanville Elementary School (Logan) Hamlin PK-8 School (Lincoln) Harts PK-8 School (Lincoln) Holden Central Elementary School (Logan) Hugh Dingess Elementary School (Logan) Justice Elementary School (Logan) Logan Elementary School (Logan) Man Elementary School (Logan) Midway Elementary School (Lincoln) Omar Elementary School (Logan) Ranger Elementary School (Lincoln) South Man Elementary School (Logan) Verdunville Elementary School (Logan) West Chapmanville Elementary School (Logan) West Hamlin Elementary School (Lincoln)

## **STEM Works**

#### Engaging Students in STEM

Blended Learning Schools: Blended Learning is a collaboration of seven rural high schools in West Virginia that provide a "blended" approach to STEM education. Face-to-face instruction will be enhanced through Makerspaces in each school that enable hands-on, project-based learning. Participating teachers will also blend digital instruction using the state's Learning Management System (LMS) platform to organize and create content that enhances student learning. The Blended Learning initiative is funded through generous contributions from the BelleJAR Foundation, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Chevron, and Ross Foundation.

Blended Learning Schools: Doddridge County High School (Doddridge) Lincoln County High School (Lincoln) Logan Senior High School (Logan) Man Senior High School (Logan)

Ravenswood High School (Jackson) Ritchie County High School (Ritchie) Tug Valley High School (Mingo)

#### **STEM Partnerships**

STEM Challenge: For the past three years, The Education Alliance has partnered with West Virginia STEM organizations to host statewide challenges designed to motivate interest in STEM learning, enhance students' creativity and to encourage their participation in STEM education fields. This past year, The Education Alliance supported two STEM student competitions: WV Coding Challenge and Map WV Challenge. Through the 2nd annual WV Coding Challenge, offered in partnership with the Governor's STEM Initiative, 16 students won \$8,000 in prizes for using their coding skills to create a drawing, game or story. In the Map WV Challenge, in partnership with Esri, 10 students were recognized for developing a map that geographically told West Virginia's story.

WV Maker Network: Since the launch of the West Virginia Maker Network, Makerspaces all across the state have used their facilities to contribute to a Partnering for the Future that encourages innovation in learning. Beginning with an initial seven sites, the Network has grown to include other West Virginia Makerspaces, fostering an environment where resources, ideas, challenges, and accomplishments in Making can be shared. This past year, The Education Alliance launched a website dedicated to Making (EducationAlliance.org/Maker) and a monthly eNewsletter. Through these unique learning opportunities, students have used these Makerspaces to challenge their abilities and grow their skills such as teamwork, leadership, time management, and goal setting.

## OWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS STEM ADVOCACY

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### **EDTalks**

EDTalks is a statewide discussion series that challenges business and community leaders to engage in public education. EDTalks feature compelling presentations by thought leaders, along with time for networking and discussion. The Education Alliance launched the EDTalks Initiative in 2014 and is proud to host two events each spring. This year's EDTalks were sponsored by AT&T, Bowles Rice, Cabell Huntington Hospital, Dow, Dominion Energy, The Thrasher Group, TransCanada, and ZMM Architects & Engineers.

The first EDTalk of 2018 was held in Putnam County on May 21 and featured Shelley Moore Capito, United States Senator for West Virginia; Leah Curry, President of Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia; and Jan Rader, Huntington Fire Chief. During her talk, Senator Capito spoke about important policy efforts to strengthen STEM education, Career Technical programs and better broad-band access. Ms. Curry emphasized the need for "real-world "applied learning opportunities and increasing female leadership opportunities. Chief Rader spoke of the importance coming together to support children and help them build resiliency to overcome adversity.

A second EDTalk was held in Morgantown on June 18. At this EDTalk, Pat Getty, President of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, shared how teachers and support organizations need to work together to pursue student achievement. Katlin Thorsell, the 2018 West Virginia Teacher of the Year, spoke on how teaching students soft skills such as relationship building and care for others is as important as hard academics. The final speaker, Bob Huggins, West Virginia University Men's Basketball Coach, spoke on the importance of empowering each student to learn in ways tailored to their strengths.

EDTalks provide a venue for discussing trends and challenging community members to engage in public education, and they also highlight the important role The Education Alliance plays as the statewide partner for connecting education, jobs, and West Virginia's future. The Alliance plans to host two EDTalk events in 2019. For more information on EDTalks or to view a video of featured speakers, visit EducationAlliance.org/EDTalks. of participants rated the EDTalks speaker series as very good or excellent.

## **West Virginia Education Summit**

On November 1, 2017, more than 250 business, community and education leaders gathered in Charleston for the 5th Annual West Virginia Education Summit. The Summit is an annual gathering of stakeholders to discuss strategies for improving student achievement. The 2017 Education Summit was sponsored by Appalachian Power; AT&T; Bowles Rice; Cabell Huntington Hospital; Dow; FirstEnergy Foundation; Microsoft; Mountain Valley Pipeline; Northeast Natural Energy; Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia; United Bank; and the West Virginia Economic Development Council.

The morning session began with a Career Readiness Panel featuring representatives from a variety of businesses in West Virginia. Dr. Sarah Tucker, Chancellor of the West Virginia Community and Technical College System moderated a discussion with Chris Beam, President and COO of Appalachian Power; Matt Oliver, Human Resources Manager at Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia; Ryan Moore, Human Resources Leader at Procter & Gamble; and Diana Sole Walko, CEO of MotionMasters. Panelists spoke about the skills and dispositions needed from those they hire to work at their companies. Following the panel, Sharon Rowe and L. Newton Thomas, Jr., Directors Emeritus of The Education Alliance, presented the inaugural Exemplary Partnership Award to Berkeley County Schools in recognition of their innovative partnerships with local business and community groups.

Susan Patrick, President and CEO of iNACOL, presented the Summit's keynote address. Patrick's discussion focused on the national education trend to tailor learning to each student, often using technology to do so. Patrick also spoke about making shifts to a competency based model of student achievement, wherein students achieve mastery of base concepts before progressing to more difficult ones. Over lunch, participants networked during a Student Expo that showcased state exemplars of personalized learning models.

During the afternoon session, Dr. MaryLu Hutchins of the Carnegie Mellon University Create Lab led a discussion with Marie Watson and Dr. Linda Lavender, education officials from South Carolina, about steps they have taken to better tailor education to their students distinct needs. This discussion was moderated by Brad McElhinny, MetroNews Statewide Correspondent.

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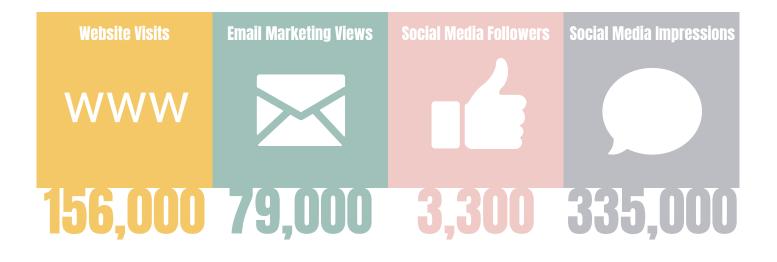
of participants rated the Education Summit as very good or excellent



The Our Voice campaign is an effort to cultivate systemic growth in West Virginia's Education system by connecting community members with up-to-date education news and policy information as well as providing research on important issues facing the system.

Public education is strongest when input from all stakeholders is valued and partners feel welcome to engage in the process. The Education Alliance seeks to be earnest advocates and honest partners in public education. Our students and our state deserve an active and engaged public.

Over the past year, The Education Alliance provided real-time and in-depth coverage of the 2018 Legislative Session, monthly State Board of Education meetings, and other education-related news. Additionally, in 2018 The Education Alliance produced a report entitled: STEM Forward: Building West Virginia's Capacity Through Computer Science. On February 2, 2018, The Education Alliance convened nearly 100 education, business, and community leaders from across the state to examine ways of increasing access to Computer Science education in West Virginia schools. The results of that convening, as well as additional research and analysis, are reflected in the report. It can be found at EducationAlliance.org/OurVoice.



## **Remake Learning Days**

Remake Learning Days (May 17-25, 2018) was a nine-day celebration showcasing activities and events that make West Virginia a recognized national leader in innovative teaching and learning. More than 30 events took place in West Virginia during Remake Learning Days.

Partilers: In collaboration with the Remake Learning Network, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, and the Grable Foundation, The Education Alliance provided \$20,000 to help celebrate Remake Learning Days across West Virginia. More than 500 students and 200 adults in West Virginia were exposed to events featuring STEM, STEAM, Maker, and technology-enhanced learning during Remake Learning Day events.

#### **Remake Learning Days Grantees:**

Anna Jarvis Parent Teacher Organization (Taylor) Aurora Elementary School (Preston) Bradley Elementary School (Fayette) Calhoun County Schools (Calhoun) Confidence Elementary School (Putnam) Eastwood Elementary (Monongalia) Hurricane Middle School (Putnam) John J. Cornwell Elementary School (Hampshire) June Harless Center (Cabell) Kanawha County 4-H Leaders Association (Kanawha) Kanawha County Schools Learning 20/20 Team (Kanawha) Mason County Family Resource Network (Mason) Oakvale Elementary School (Mercer) Paw Paw Public Library (Morgan) Reset Incorporated (Raleigh) Spring Mills High School (Berkeley)

Step by Step, Inc. (Kanawha) Stratton Elementary (Raleigh) The Challenger Learning Center at Wheeling Jesuit University (Ohio) Tomahawk Intermediate School (Berkeley) Wildwood Middle School (Jefferson) WVU Extension Service (Cabell)

970/<sub>0</sub> of grantees rated the Remake **Learning Days** as excellent or very good ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## **Donor Honor Roll**

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American Electric Power Foundation Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation Ross Foundation Volunteer West Virginia

#### Leaders' Circle(\$25,000 -\$99,999)

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