



ANNUAL REPORT

2020

Education  **Alliance**
Business & Community for Public Schools



MESSAGE

from the Chair of the Board and President/CEO

Dear Friend of the Alliance,

As the world continues to respond to the pandemic crisis, we pause for a moment to share The Education Alliance's 2020 Annual Report. Perhaps, unlike any other year in our history, this past year has brought unprecedented challenges, opportunities, and acts of courage and hope.

Challenges... As we begin the new school year, students, teachers, and families face a myriad of challenges. Challenges like "summer learning loss" have increased and problems like "food insecurity" have been exacerbated. Now, more than ever, The Education Alliance is **working to mobilize business and community support to solve these challenges together**. This report highlights the amazing impact of our AmeriCorps Mentors who provided virtual mentoring and distributed more than 50,000 meals during the crisis (see Cover and page 3).

Opportunity... Before COVID, we had received 170 applications from high school students to participate in 4-week, onsite WV Ready Internships at ten businesses across the state. Thanks to the flexibility of our business partners, educators, and students we transitioned to an innovative **virtual model** of training, mentoring and capstone projects. The transition brought new opportunities and **increased access** for our most rural high school students to gain real-world experience through the virtual internships (see page 6).

Acts of courage and hope... In our first-ever Virtual EDTalk, West Virginia Teacher of the Year Jennifer Schwertfeger, shared a powerful story about acts of courage and hope that she witnessed among her students during the crisis. The Education Alliance is telling these stories because they **inspire us to support a public education system that is strong and resilient** well into the future.

As we look towards the future, we need your help to lend resources and expertise to support partnerships that provide solutions. The Education Alliance is committed to being a strong leader in that process. Together, we can change the future!

Sincerely,



Amelia Courts
Amelia Courts, Ed.D.
President/CEO



Christina Brumley
Christina Brumley
Chair of the Board

MAKER SPACES MAKE MEDICAL MASKS



MAKER SPACES JOIN EFFORT TO MAKE MEDICAL MASKS

Since 2014, The Education Alliance has helped schools expand Maker education through programs like our Blended Learning initiative that provides training, resources, and equipment. During the past school year, school Maker Spaces were part of a statewide effort including Career Technical Centers that made more than 60,000 pieces of personal protective equipment and donated them to West Virginia hospitals. Education Alliance AmeriCorps VISTA, Caleb Rusk (pictured here) was instrumental in supporting Lincoln County High School efforts to create 3D printed masks for medical professionals in the school's Maker Space.

COVID RESPONSE

50,000

meals distributed to families in need by AmeriCorps members and VISTAs

2,800

students participated in remote learning through the Energizing steM and Blended Learning programs

2,500

face shields donated to West Virginia hospitals by AmeriCorps members and VISTAs

35

schools transitioned to virtual mentoring to provide students with support during the crisis

STRATEGIC GOALS

37,700

Students Served

Equipping Students for Success

285

School/Business Partnerships

Mobilizing Business Partners

17

Stakeholder Convenings

Advancing System Improvement

VIRTUAL INTERNSHIPS



VIRTUAL INTERNSHIPS TEACH REAL-WORLD SKILLS

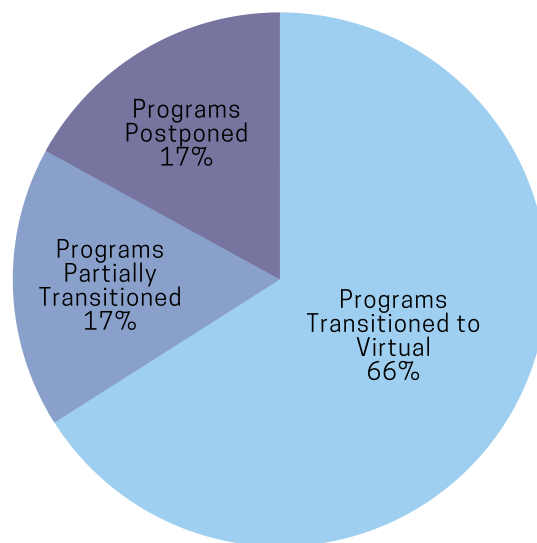
In July 2020, fifteen high school juniors and seniors from across the state participated in a 4-week virtual internship program. WV Ready Interns developed career knowledge and skill sets to ensure they're ready for success after graduation. The Education Alliance paired each intern with business mentors from Dow Inc., Toyota Motor Manufacturing WV, and WV American Water. Interns participated virtually in high-quality training modules and worked in virtual teams to complete a capstone project to re-engineer an existing product or develop a new system that addressed a challenge from their host business.

2019-20

NUMBERS AND STATISTICS

The Education Alliance is a research-based organization with a track record of data-driven decision making. Some of our historical benchmarking metrics were interrupted by COVID-19 as external evaluators were prohibited from collecting end of year achievement data. Resources provided to schools, such as program grants saw a significant decrease. However, other outcomes, such as the number of volunteers leveraged, remained robust in the crisis.

Programs Transitioned to Virtual Models during COVID



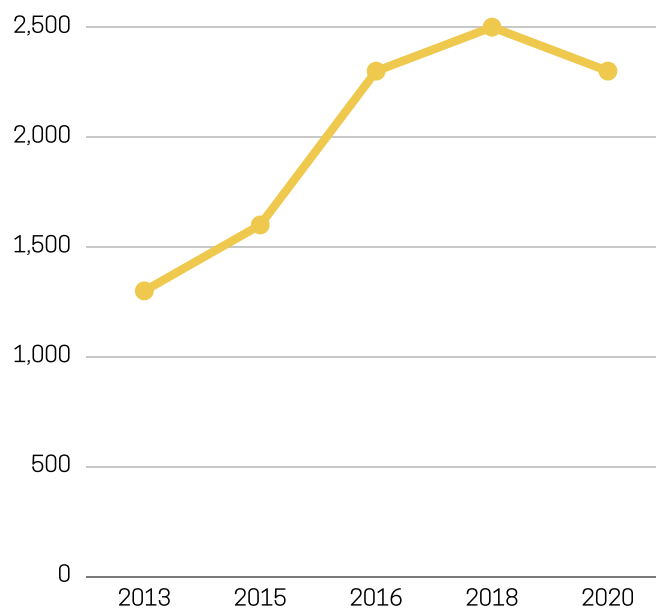
680 K

\$ leveraged for schools

76%

+ academic performance

Volunteers Leveraged to Support Students



EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

The Education Alliance equips West Virginia students for success through education opportunities and support.

AmeriCorps Mentors: 32 AmeriCorps members provided a dropout prevention mentor-based intervention designed to improve student attendance, behavior, and course performance. Major funding provided by the Corporation for National & Community Service and Volunteer West Virginia with support from the Fenton Foundation, the Parkersburg Area Foundation, and the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation.

Blended Learning: 7 rural schools received training and support to “blend” face-to-face instruction with online resources and hands-on-learning through Makerspaces. Funding provided by the BelleJAR Foundation, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Chevron, and Ross Foundation.

Born Learning Academy: 9 elementary schools offered a series of six engaging academy sessions for families with young children designed to create teachable moments for their children. Major funding provided by Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia.

College Ambassadors: 9 AmeriCorps members served at Community Colleges working to increase college access and enrollment. Major funding provided by the West Virginia Community and Technical College System and the Corporation for National & Community Service and Volunteer West Virginia.

Energizing steM: 2,200 elementary students in Lincoln and Logan counties received computer-based supplemental math curriculum (Imagine Learning) along with promoting community support for math education. Major funding provided by American Electric Power Foundation.

Financial Literacy: Statewide partnership that provided resources to help students make wise and informed financial choices. Major funding provided by the Higher Education Policy Commission.



MOBILIZING BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Education Alliance mobilizes business and community support for schools to improve student outcomes.

College Access: 35 middle schools received funding and technical support to engage students in college visits. Major funding provided by the Higher Education Policy Commission.

Partnerships in Education: 3 school and business partnerships received a communications package to promote their partnerships that produce WV Ready Graduates. Major funding provided by West Virginia Public Broadcasting.

WV Ready Internships: 15 high school students received a 4-week virtual summer internship experience with a West Virginia business. Major funding provided by Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia and the Benedum Foundation in partnership with Dow Inc. and West Virginia American Water.

STEM VISTA: 7 Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA)'s built the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of schools and nonprofit organizations to implement and enhance STEM education. Major funding provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

ADVANCING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

The Education Alliance advances the improvement of West Virginia's education system through research-based vision setting, dialogue and advocacy.

Research and Outreach: Throughout the 2020 legislative session, the Alliance worked to support systemic improvement by advancing key policy priorities such as HB 4519 Creating a Summer Youth Internship program, SB 750 Establishing Extended Learning Opportunities; and SB 839 Creating an Advisory Council on Post-secondary Attainment. The Alliance provided community members with up-to-date education news and policy information, as well as research on key issues.

WV Education Summit: In its seventh year, the statewide education summit engages businesses, community and education leaders in innovative dialogue and collaborative efforts to achieve excellence in education in West Virginia. Event sponsorship provided by Appalachian Power; AT&T; Bowles Rice; Dominion Energy; EQT; First Energy Foundation; Jackson Kelly; Mountain Health Network; Mylan; Northeast Natural Energy; United Bank; West Virginia's CLIMB; West Virginia Economic Development Council; West Virginia Public Broadcasting; and ZMM Architects & Engineers.

EDTalks: 2 regional events were held virtually to generate innovative discussions and big ideas about connecting education, jobs and West Virginia's future. Event sponsorship provided by Dow, Inc. and Bowles Rice LLP. 2020 Speakers include: US Senator Joe Manchin III, US Senator Shelley Moore Capito, State Superintendent of Schools Clayton Burch, West Virginia State Teacher of the Year Jennifer Swertzfeger (pictured on page 14) and other key leaders.

COLLEGE AMBASSADORS



HELPING STUDENTS ENROLL IN COLLEGE

This year, The Education Alliance piloted a new program called College Ambassadors that engaged 9 local movers and shakers as AmeriCorps members to increase college access. The members served on community college campuses across the state and helped students complete the application and enrollment process. During the pilot project, College Ambassadors helped 175 high school seniors and adults apply for community college.





Founders' Circle (\$100,000.00 and above)

American Electric Power Foundation
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
Corporation for National and Community Service
Volunteer WV

Leader's Circle (\$25,000 - \$99,999)

Belle Jar Foundation
EQT Foundation
WV Department of Education
WV Higher Education Policy Commission

President's Circle (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

California Community Fund
Fenton Foundation, Inc.
Fetzer Institute
Step by Step

Summa Cum Laude (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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Bernard H & Blanche E Jacobson Foundation
DOW Chemical Company
Fairmont State Foundation
FirstEnergy Foundation
Jackson Kelly PLLC
Molly & Robert Lehman
Northeast Natural Energy
The Daywood Foundation
United National Bank
WV American Water Company
ZMM

Magna Cum Laude (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Bowles Rice Foundation
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Carbon Fuel Foundation
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Christina Brumley
College Board
Craig Baker
Daniel Foster
Dingess-Rum Properties, Inc.
Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
ESRI
Gat Caperton
Herscher Foundation
HHS
Howard & Carole Seufer
James Thomas
Jessica & Rob Alsop
Judith Gemma-Sjostedt
Laura Sutton
MaryLu Hutchins
Parkersburg Area Community Foundation
Phillip Page
Ralph J. Bean
St. Mary's Medical Center
Stephen Hopta
WV Division of Culture & History
WV Economic Development Council
WV Public Broadcasting

Cum Laude (\$500 - \$999)

Amelia Courts
Clay County Board of Education
David Mohr
Despina Kapourales

Donald F. Mock III
Erica Mani
Fayette County Board of Education
Herschiel Sims
Jeri Matheney
Joseph McDonie
Lacy Rice, Jr. Sharon Rowe

Dean's List (\$499 or below)

Adam Green
Amazon Smile Foundation
Andrew Feeney
Brett Staple
Caroline Sue Goodall
Derek Vance
Donna Peduto
Emily Pratt
Gayle Manchin
Hardy County Rural Development Authority
Jackson Board of Education
JP Morgan Chase
L Newton Thomas Jr.
Mallie J. Combs
Maria Steele
Melody Taylor
Michelle Wittekind
Olivia McCuskey
Priscilla Leavitt
Rebecca & Tom Tinder
Richard Cassis
Sally Barton
Sammy Gray
Srini Matam
Steve Hastings

MEET THE TEAM



SERVING STUDENTS DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

2020 was a year of overcoming challenges, leveraging opportunities, and supporting acts of courage and hope. The common threads in each of these reflect the leadership of the Board of Directors, generosity of our donors, and work ethic of our staff.

Team members pictured here (from upper left to right): Andrew Means, Sally Barton, Beth Bowden, Quinten Burton, Emily Pratt, Dale Bowyer, Caroline Goodall, Olivia McCuskey, and Amelia Courts.



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Brett Staples, Senior Vice President/Financial Advisor, BB&T Scott & Stringfellow – Past Chair
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Dan Page, Adjunct Professor, West Virginia State University -- Member-at-Large

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Jennifer Schwertfeger, 2020 Teacher of the Year, Cameron High School
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Michelle Wittekind, Vice President/Area Manager, JPMorgan Chase

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Joanne Jaeger Tomblin, Former First Lady, State of West Virginia



2020 West Virginia State Teacher of the Year
Jennifer Swertfeger helps her Anatomy
students conduct experiments.



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