



2022 Annual Report

Celebrating 40 years

Education **Alliance**

Business & Community for Public Schools

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BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE

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Despina “Dee”

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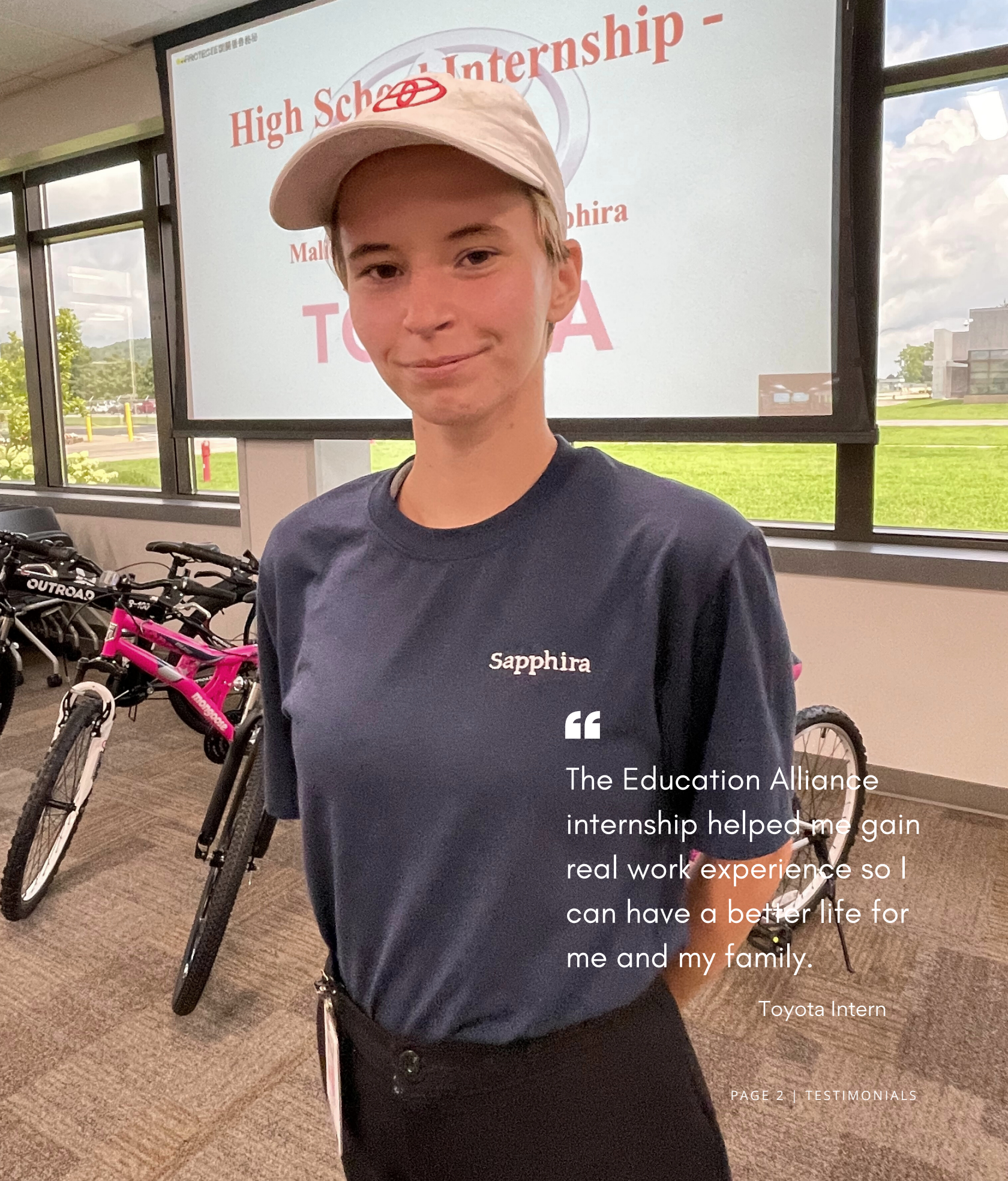
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Education  **Alliance**

Business & Community for Public Schools



High School Internship -

Mall Sapphira

TOYOTA

Sapphira

“

The Education Alliance internship helped me gain real work experience so I can have a better life for me and my family.

Toyota Intern



1983

1999

Honoring our **Past**
Reflecting on our **Present**
Looking to our **Future**

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

2008

2013

2022

Dear Friend of the Alliance,

This year, The Education Alliance celebrates its 40th anniversary. Our 2022 Annual Report marks this momentous milestone by honoring our past, reflecting on our present, and looking ahead to our future. We want to begin by extending our sincerest appreciation to YOU, our partners. In 2022, you continued to stand by our side and your support enabled us to serve 14,180 students and 135 new business partnerships. You are the reason The Education Alliance continues to thrive!

Honoring our past . . . The Education Alliance was founded in 1983 on the concept of “business and community for public schools.” Our logo reflects our founders' belief that robust partnerships can help achieve a “gold star” in education. In 2022, building on this solid foundation, the Alliance completed the campaign for the Caperton Center for School and Business Partnerships. The Caperton Center pays tribute to Governor Gaston Caperton, a founding member of our board of directors and a powerful advocate for school and business partnerships. The Center officially launches in the fall of 2022. It would not be possible without the strong leadership of the campaign steering committee and the generous support of our donors. This year’s report highlights their contribution.

Reflecting on our present . . . There have been substantial increases in stress and anxiety for students and adults due to the recent pandemic. There is little doubt that these struggles lead to low motivation and poor academic achievement by students. With the help of our business partners, we expanded our Virtual Work-Based Learning course to provide virtual job-shadowing at 12 businesses across the state and successfully launched the return of in-person and online summer internships. Together, these opportunities enable students to broaden their career awareness and develop skills that will equip them for success.

Looking to our future . . . To help ensure tomorrow’s leaders are prepared for success, the Education Alliance AmeriCorps Mentors are partnering with schools across the state to provide quality mentoring and support to high-need students. Through special training and support, mentors helped 980 students achieve success in school this past year. They also serve as caring adult role models to help students develop agency and perseverance to overcome challenges. In addition, we continued our partnership with WV GEAR UP in 2022 to provide Virtual College Visits and reduce the impact of the pandemic on college access. This initiative enabled more than 5,000 West Virginia 7th and 12th-grade students to see themselves with a bright future on more than 15 West Virginia college campuses.

Thank you for celebrating with us as we mark our 40th anniversary. We appreciate your support that has enabled us to stay the course this past year, and we invite you to join us to serve more West Virginia students through strong business and community partnerships. Together, we can change the future.

Sincerely,



Adam Krason
Board Chair



Amelia Courts, Ed.D.
President/CEO





MISSION & IMPACT

The Education Alliance is a statewide non-profit organization that mobilizes business and community support for public schools. We are passionate about helping ensure all West Virginia students graduate READY for success.

1983

The Education Alliance is founded

1984

Partnerships in Education links schools with business partners

2012

AmeriCorps Mentors serve high need students

2014

EDTalks foster dialogue between business and community leaders

2018

WV Ready Graduate Profile outlines knowledge and skills needed for success

2022

14,180

STUDENTS SERVED

2,530

VOLUNTEERS LEVERAGED

135

SCHOOL-BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS LAUNCHED

\$2.5M

RESOURCES LEVERAGED

SCHOOL-BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

The Caperton Center for School and Business Partnerships, launching in 2022-23, will revitalize strategic school-business partnerships to better serve students across the state.

The Education Alliance was founded on the concept of “business and community for public schools.” It has been our commitment for more than four decades. The Alliance is based on a belief that we are stronger together. The organization has a proven, 40-year track record of creating school business partnerships that have been critical in moving our schools and communities forward and preparing students for the future.

Building on this strong foundation, The Education Alliance successfully completed the campaign for the Caperton Center for School and Business Partnerships. The Caperton Center pays tribute to Governor Gaston Caperton, who served as a founding board member of The Education Alliance. He and other business leaders recognized the importance of supporting public schools and giving the business community a voice in education.



HONORING OUR PAST



“

Research is clear that school-business partnerships provide multiple benefits to our students including increasing school capacity, enhancing educational experiences, and preparing students to begin their careers and become productive citizens of the Mountain State.

Abowitz, 2000; Willems & Gonzalez-DeHass, 2012; Ziegler, 2001

In addition to a positive impact on students, the business community also stands to benefit greatly from the ability to hire from a more robust and well-prepared pool of applicants. As West Virginia emerges from the COVID pandemic, schools will face an even more critical need to revitalize strong business partnerships.

Though not a brick-and-mortar building, the Caperton Center for School and Business Partnerships will provide a permanent home for programs that leverage the time and talent of business leaders across the state to strengthen education. The Caperton Center’s purpose is to develop and sustain school-business partnerships that promote student success. It will impact countless West Virginia students by focusing on three primary goals:

- **REVITALIZATION** - The Caperton Center will initially focus on completing a gap analysis of schools’ existing business partnerships and will craft a plan to revitalize and sustain them statewide.
- **EQUITY & ACCESS** - With a focus on helping traditionally underserved students, the Caperton Center will help foster new business partnerships specifically aimed at strengthening student equity and access to quality education through a broad array of programs, services, and events.
- **INNOVATION** - The Caperton Center will have the flexibility to respond quickly to new challenges and direct resources to emerging priorities - more important now than ever before.

THE CAPERTON CENTER

FOR SCHOOL & BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

The Caperton Center for School Business Partnerships would not exist were it not for the strong leadership of the campaign steering committee and the generous support of our donors (full donor list- page 32). These individuals and businesses recognize the center will enhance the fabric of our communities, ensuring more students access to quality partnerships in education. They believe strongly that everyone wins when our students are prepared to enter the next phase of their lives, when our schools have the resources they need, and businesses have access to a skilled workforce.

LEADERSHIP GIFTS

\$125,000 and above

Park Foundation & Raymond P. Park
Martha Gaines & Russell Wehrle Memorial Foundation
HB Wehrle Foundation
WV Financial Education Foundation

\$50,000 and above



**Full donor list - page 32*

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Dan Foster
Adam Krason
Bob Orndorff
Howard Seuffer

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Christina Brumley
Gat Caperton
Amelia Courts
Tom Heywood
Lloyd Jackson
Joe McDonie
Susan Shumate
Joanne Jaeger Tomblin
Bill Wilmoth



IN REMEMBRANCE



L. Newton Thomas, Jr.

The Education Alliance and the broader education community lost a strong, forward-thinking leader, and a generous and knowledgeable emeritus board member on January 19, 2022, with the death of L. Newton Thomas, Jr.

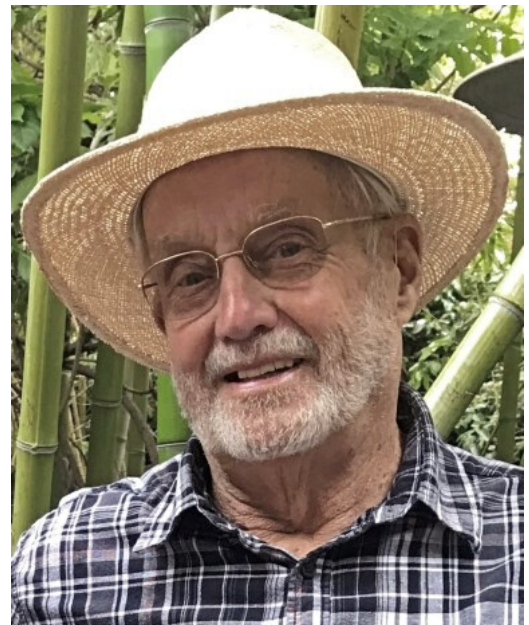
Newt Thomas was an extraordinary “Friend of the Alliance” and served over 35 years on The Education Alliance’s board of directors. He inspired countless business leaders to support public education and championed programming for students that prepared them to become influential leaders. Mr. Thomas devoted himself to the betterment of communities in his state and region, and was an enthusiastic supporter of the Edgewood Summit Retirement Community and The Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences.

Newt's energy, kindness, dedication, and smile enriched those fortunate enough to know and work with him. The Education Alliance recognizes the significant contributions of L. Newton Thomas, Jr. over the course of his distinguished career and honors his legacy of service to The Education Alliance and advocacy for West Virginia students. We extend our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Edward Clausen

In July of 2021, The Education Alliance was honored to establish the Claussen Memorial Fund in memory of Mr. Edward Claussen. Mr. Claussen resided part-time in Lewisburg, West Virginia and was passionate about helping young people stay in school. He had personally experienced the pain and regret of dropping out of high school and always shared his personal story as a way to remind students of the value of high school graduation.

After his passing, Mr. Claussen’s family learned of the Education Alliance AmeriCorps Mentor program and decided to honor his legacy by making a contribution to this program that aligned with his interest in providing support for West Virginia youth to be successful in school and in careers. We are grateful to every donor to the Claussen Memorial Fund and celebrate its ongoing impact on West Virginia students.







REFLECTING ON OUR PRESENT

WORK-BASED LEARNING

In 2022, the Education Alliance expanded our efforts to help prepare tomorrow's leaders by providing quality work-based learning opportunities to high school students across the state.

With the help of 12 business partners, our Virtual Work-Based Learning course provided virtual job shadowing, career mentoring, and a hands-on capstone experience. Teachers from across the state used the course resources to help their students develop career readiness skills. Each school was matched with one business that assigned a capstone topic and provided weekly mentoring calls with the students and teachers to guide the capstone research. Using this model, students in Ms. Smith's Tourism class at Sissonville High School (Kanawha Co.) were matched with Appalachian Power.

The AEP team assigned students the real-world capstone challenge of identifying the best locations in West Virginia for installation of new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations. The Appalachian Power employees met weekly with the students to coach them on their project. During the last day of the class, students shared their capstone presentations with company executives. Not only had each student gained extensive tourism knowledge through the project, they also showcased their new knowledge on electric vehicles, EV charging, energy industry careers plus excellent professional skills developed through the course.

“

I am so excited to learn new things in the internship and hopefully maybe get a job in the industry someday.

16 year-old Appalachian Power intern

141

STUDENTS IN WORK-BASED
LEARNING PROGRAMS

65%

INCREASE IN
CAREER READINESS

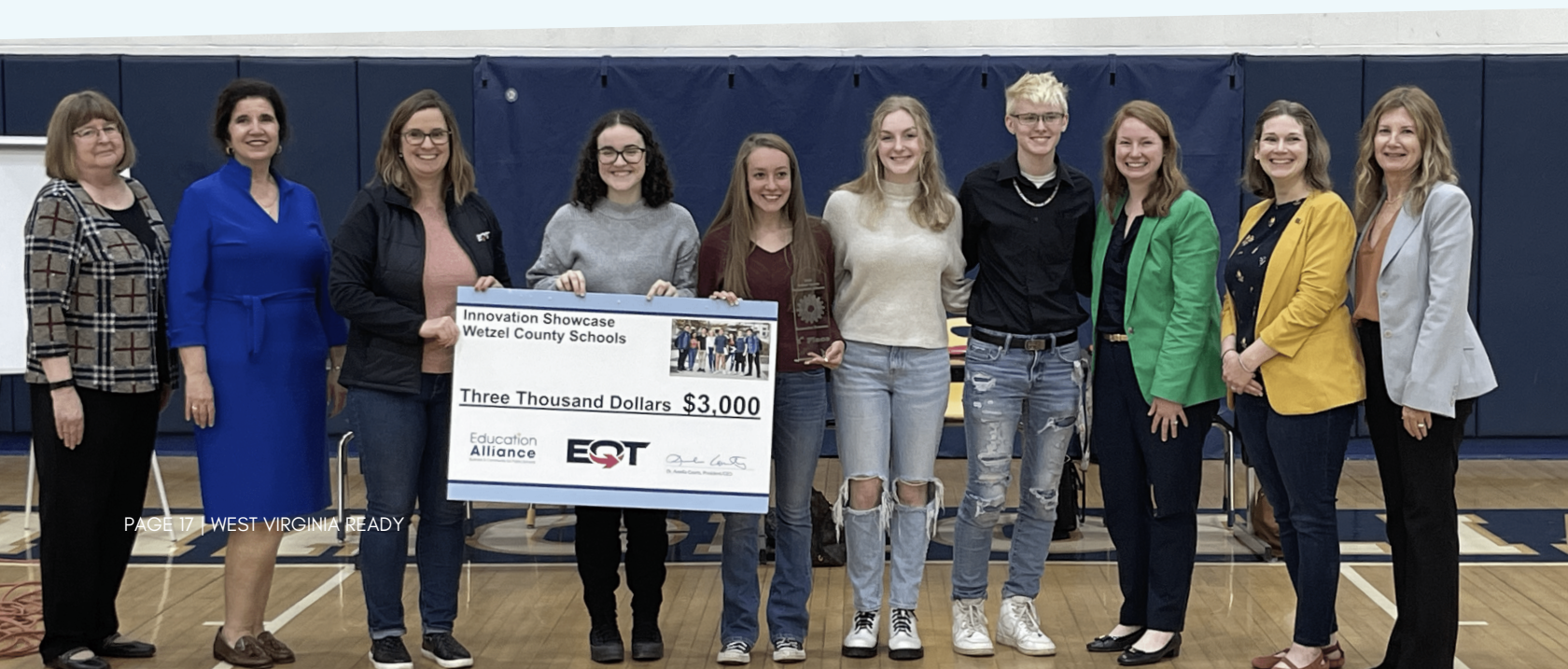


WEST VIRGINIA READY

In May, students from all four Wetzel County high schools presented Innovation Showcases through a grant from the EQT Foundation. The students presented their ideas “Shark Tank” style using Design Thinking to solve problems by ideating the original idea to reach better solutions. The judges, including EQT, local chamber of commerce, board of education, and Alliance representatives truly struggled to choose a winner because the teams were all impressive. The winning team developed a prototype of a new system that could use a common household water system to generate electricity and showcased it using a 3D printer version they created in their engineering class.

In July, the Alliance launched the 2022 Summer Internship program that enables 11th-12th grade students to earn \$16/hour while gaining real-world technical and professional skills with some of the state’s top employers: Appalachian Power, Toyota Motor Mfg. WV, and WV American Water.

If you visited one of these internship programs, perhaps you would expect to see Interns observing meetings, making copies, filing papers... In fact, when we visited the interns onsite at Toyota, the interns greeted us but barely looked up from their project. They were hard at work assembling a new ergonomic tool to be used this fall on the manufacturing line by Toyota team members. The interns were focused and confident as their team leader carefully coached them on assembly strategies. This type of mentoring and real-world experience is life changing for high school students. This year, by offering both in-person AND virtual intern options, students across West Virginia were able to engage in quality, paid internship experiences.





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Always use the STAIR handrail

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Nathan



LOOKING TO OUR FUTURE





Throughout the pandemic, there have been substantial increases in stress and anxiety for students and adults. There is little doubt that these struggles lead to poor academic achievement and decreased graduation rates.

The Education Alliance AmeriCorps Mentors are partnering with schools across the state to address the challenges students are facing today. Through special training and support, mentors not only help students achieve success in school, they also serve as caring adult role models to help students develop agency and perseverance to overcome challenges.

Thanks to a generous donation of 100 refurbished laptops from AT&T and Human-I-T, the Education Alliance was able to distribute the laptops to all of the AmeriCorps Mentors, College Ambassadors, and VISTAs. The mentors received the devices at the annual end-of-year celebration and will use them to help reduce the digital divide.

“

I have never had a laptop in my life,
I'm so excited that I finally
have one!

Education Alliance AmeriCorps Mentor Sheree



MENTORS MATTER

In the midst of another challenging year due to the pandemic, Education Alliance AmeriCorps Mentors continued to serve as caring adult role models for high-need students across the state.

Noah is an 18-year-old with a troubled home life who had a brush with the law last fall and was kicked off the football team. He shared how sad and alone he felt, and that he decided to drop out of school. The school matched Noah with Zach, an Education Alliance AmeriCorps Mentor, who began daily mentoring sessions and taught him that his past does not define his future. "Zach told me I was standing in a doorway, that I could walk towards a bright future if I wanted and he would be there to help me," said Noah. "So I did. My mentor, Zach, is 100% the reason I turned my life around and graduated high school with my peers."

Dylan is a second-grade student in southern West Virginia. In January 2022, the Education Alliance AmeriCorps Mentors concluded our annual "Coats for Kids" Service project, collecting more than 2,400 winter items for students in need at 35 locations across West Virginia. These donations make a tremendous difference in the day-to-day lives of students like Dylan. Dylan's mentor noticed that he often came to school in December wearing a thin, adult-size rain jacket. His Education Alliance Mentor was thrilled to give him a new rain jacket and a warm winter puffer coat! When she gave the coat to Dylan, he asked, "Do I have to give it back?" When she said no, he refused to take it off and wore the coat for the rest of the day.



Through a partnership with the WV Community and Technical College System, College Ambassadors are placed around the state on community college campuses to help students complete the college application and enrollment process.

8

COLLEGE AMBASSADORS

4,346

STUDENTS SERVED

4,878

VOLUNTEER HOURS

COLLEGE ACCESS

The data is clear, to meet future workforce needs West Virginia needs more students to complete *college (*college =certificate, 2 year, or 4 year).

In spring 2022, the Alliance continued our partnership with WV GEAR UP to support 1-hour Virtual College Visits. We provided toolkits to schools to maximize student engagement.

In January, we provided training to more than 100 GEAR UP educators for Virtual College Visits. Participating schools registered on our website to take high school seniors on free virtual visits to 18 WV college campuses.

In April we invited middle school students to “hop on the virtual bus” with us and see the powerful impact of visiting college, especially for first-generation middle school students.

5,426
STUDENTS SERVED

22
COLLEGE TOURS PROVIDED

112
TEACHER/COUNSELOR PARTNERS



Equipping Students for Success

The Education Alliance equips West Virginia students for success through innovative education programming, mentoring, and support.

AmeriCorps Mentors 50 AmeriCorps members provide a dropout prevention mentor-based intervention designed to improve student attendance, behavior, and course performance. Major funding provided by AmeriCorps and Volunteer West Virginia with support from the Fenton Foundation, the Pallottine Foundation of Huntington, the Parkersburg Area Foundation, and The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation.

College Ambassadors 8 AmeriCorps members serve to increase college access and enrollment. Major funding provided by West Virginia Community and Technical College System, AmeriCorps and Volunteer West Virginia.

College Access As a partner with WV GEAR UP, the Education Alliance brings together business, education, and community leaders to improve college access across the state. Last year, over 5,000 middle and high school students participated in college visits.

Mobilizing Business and Community Support

The Education Alliance mobilizes business and community support to leverage expertise and resources that improve student outcomes.

Partnerships in Education The Caperton Center for School and Business Partnerships was funded with the goal of strengthening connections between business communities and K-12 schools.

Summer Internships High school students receive a 4-week summer internship experience with a West Virginia business. Major funding provided by Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia and American Electric Power Foundation, in partnership with Appalachian Power, and West Virginia American Water.

Work-Based Learning Developing and enhancing education-based programming to help students develop world-class knowledge, college and career skills, and life characteristics.





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Advancing System Improvement

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

Education Summit Statewide education summit that engages businesses, community and education leaders in innovative dialogue and collaboration to achieve excellence in education in West Virginia. Event sponsorship provided by Appalachian Power; AT&T; Bowles Rice; EQT; First Energy Foundation; Jackson Kelly; Mountain Health Network; The Steeley Foundation; Toyota WV; United Bank; and ZMM Architects & Engineers.

EDTalks® Statewide speaker-series held annually to generate innovative discussions and big ideas about connecting education, jobs and West Virginia's future. Event sponsorship provided by AT&T; Bowles Rice LLP; DOW Inc.; Jackson Kelly PLLC.; Toyota WV; and WV American Water.

Education Alliance Research and Outreach

Initiatives to connect community members with up-to-date education policy news and research on important issues facing the system. Recent publications include: Playbook for Work-Based Learning, Social Emotional Learning 2.0 Toolkit, and Best Practices for Virtual College Visits.



“

Business leaders ask yourself
- how can you help along or
mentor to enhance your
community and create a
culture of excellence in
West Virginia.

Marshall University Soccer Coach
Chris Grassie

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

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WV United Health System

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Phil & Wendy Polack
St. Mary's Medical Center
Steve Hopta
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American Woodmark
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Erica Mani
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Gat Caperton
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DF Mock
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Sparachane Group
Stephen Hastings
Steve Gallion
Susan Clausen
Tim Ball
Undo's Family Restaurant
Vinny & Penny Buttaro
Virginia Rivera
William Purvis



“

I learned that its important
for me to build my network
and to invest in my
community.

High school student and
EDTalk attendee

CAPERTON CENTER DONATIONS

REVITALIZATION FUND

EQUITY & ACCESS FUND

INNOVATION FUND

\$125,000 AND ABOVE

Park Foundation & Raymond P. Park
Martha Gaines & Russell Wehrle Memorial Foundation
HB Wehrle Foundation
WV Financial Education Foundation

\$50,000 AND ABOVE

Encova Insurance United Bank

\$25,000 AND ABOVE

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Premier Bank
Jim & Sharon Rowe
Howard & Carol Seufer
Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC
Summit Community Bank
TC Energy
Truist WV Foundation
WesBanco Bank
WVU Health System

\$5,000 AND ABOVE

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Ralph & Cheryl Baxter
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Tom Heywood & Melody Simpson
Kanawha Stone
Herscher Foundation

Srini Matam
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Bob Orndorff & Laura Ellis
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\$1,000 AND ABOVE

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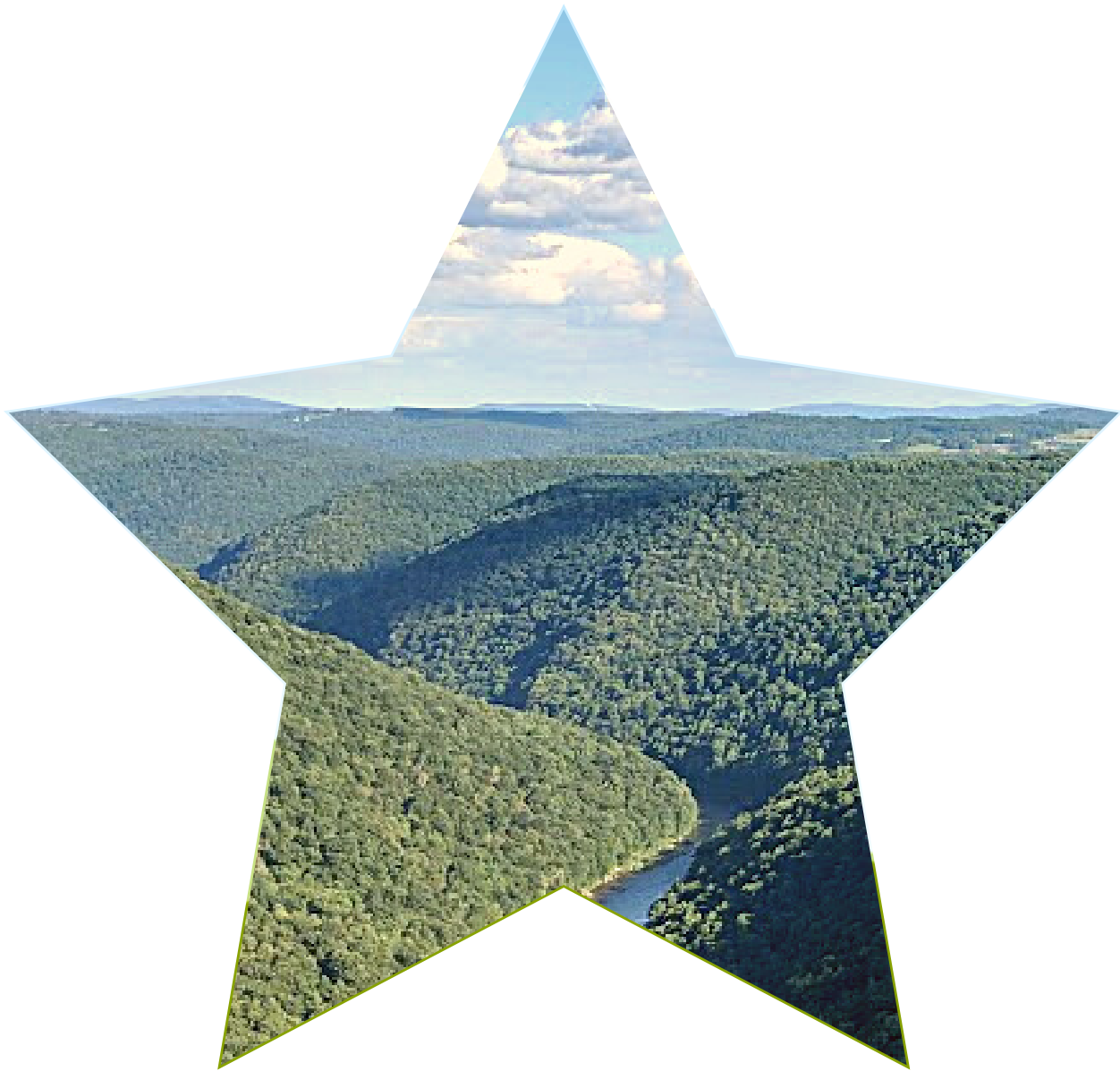


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