

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

annual report

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

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 The Education Alliance

 educationalliance.org

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20
24

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Our Story

01



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Dear Friend of the Alliance,

As we reflect on another year, the Education Alliance is excited to present our 2024 Annual Report that highlights the transformative impact of school - business partnerships. We want to thank YOU and our many business and community partners for “stacking hands” with us to equip West Virginia students for success.

Throughout the past year, our collaborations have blossomed into success stories that are highlighted throughout this report. From innovative programs such as our AmeriCorps Grow Your Own to groundbreaking initiatives like CAREERS, each partnership has left an indelible mark on the lives of students across West Virginia.

This past year, several of our partnerships were spotlighted on the national stage, where we shared stories of West Virginia student success. Recently, our team joined forces with colleagues from Toyota and Purdue University’s NMAC Center to present at the National Association for Career & Technical Education Information conference. Together, we shared strategies that are driving real change through initiatives like the Toyota 4T and WVUM MedEd programs. The insights shared resonated deeply with leaders from across the country, highlighting the tangible impact of our partnerships on students’ career readiness.

Similarly, our AmeriCorps program recently took center stage at the National America’s Service Commissions conference, where we shared the inspiring story of our partnership with local school districts in “Grow Your Own” collaborations. Through this innovative initiative, the Education Alliance is partnering with local school districts to train high school students and provide service opportunities in elementary schools that equip them with real-world experience in the teaching field and strengthen the future teacher pipeline in West Virginia. The audience was captivated by the success of the Mercer County students, who shared their compelling journey and the positive outcomes of the program.

These are just a few examples of the partnerships that are shaping the future of education in our state. From mentorship programs to career exploration initiatives, each collaboration is making a tangible difference in the lives of our students.

As we look to the future, we are committed to fostering even stronger partnerships that empower more students to achieve their full potential. With your continued support, we will work to reduce barriers and create opportunities for success for students across West Virginia.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to “stacking hands” with the Education Alliance. Together, we can make a lasting impact that will shape the future for generations to come.



Amelia Courts, Ed.D
President/CEO



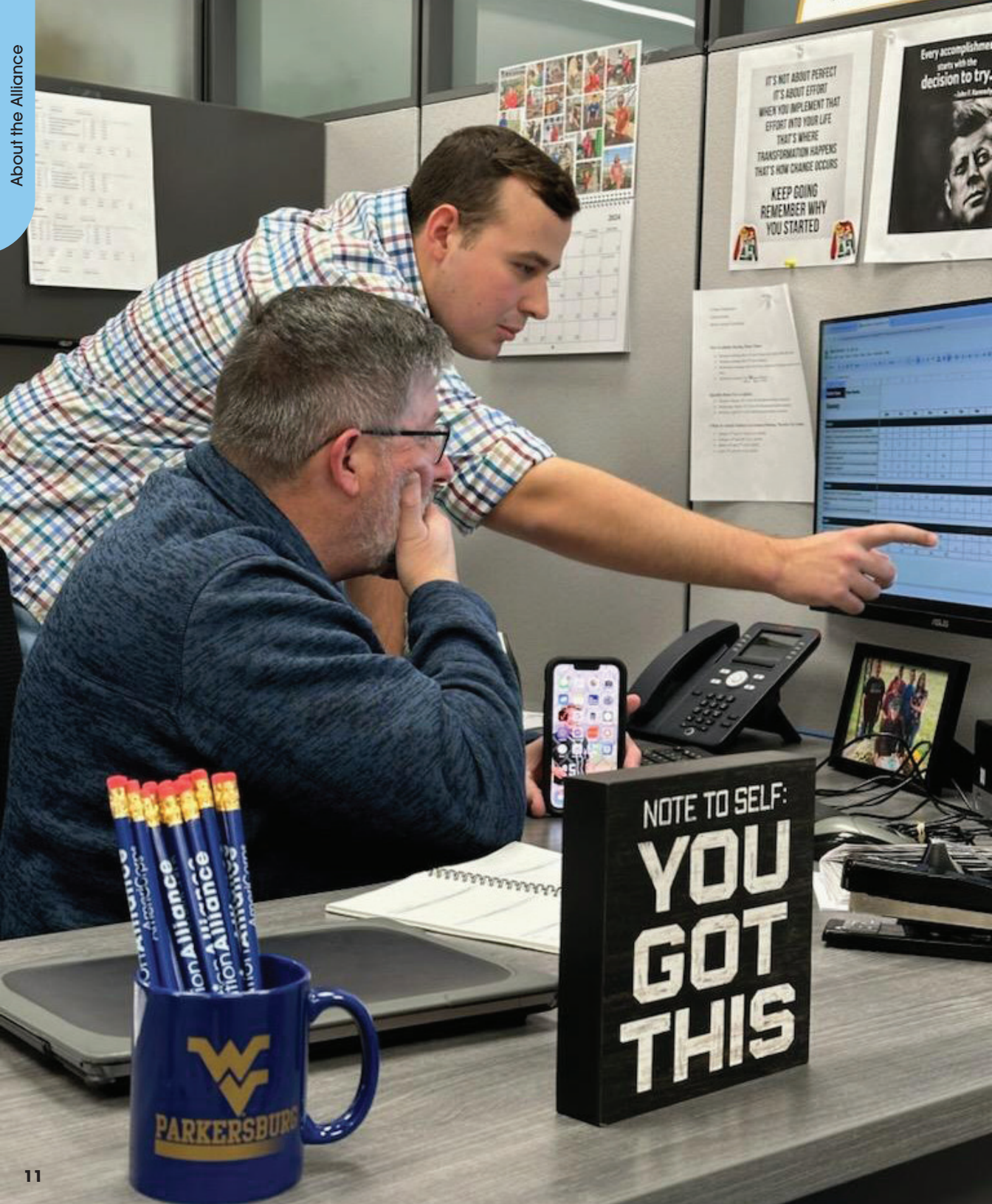
Donald F. Mock, III
Chair of the Board
of Directors

Thank you for
your unwavering
dedication to
“stacking hands”
with the Education
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for generations to
come.

Our Impact

02





About the Alliance

2013-2024

The Education Alliance is a statewide nonprofit organization that mobilizes business and community partnerships to equip West Virginia K12 students for success.

Funded by grants and donations, the Alliance was founded in 1983 and has a robust 40-year history of advancing its mission and vision through two flagship programs. Our AmeriCorps program partners caring, adult community volunteers with struggling students to provide consistent in-school mentoring and support. Our WV Ready Careers program matches schools/classrooms with businesses who provide job-shadowing, work-based learning and paid internships. In addition, the Alliance works to advance systemic improvements in education through research-based policies and practices.

14,641

students matched with caring adult mentors

72%

improved academically

21,418

students provided college visits, job shadowing, and internships

74%

increased career readiness

Making a Difference

Students Served

7,671

Volunteers Leveraged

23,806

New Business Partnerships Launched

20

Resources Leveraged for Schools

\$1.9 MIL

Community Partners

03

AmeriCorps Mentors

The Education Alliance AmeriCorps Mentor program engages community members to serve as caring adult role models, mentoring at-risk students and empowering them to see their potential and achieve success.

In 2023-24, Education Alliance Mentors increased student Attendance, reduced the number of student Behavioral incidents, and saw an overall improvement in student Course Performance. By helping them reduce the "ABC" risk factors, more students are on track for school success.

This year, the Alliance continued our long running partnership with Logan County Schools, with Mentors now serving in 3rd Grade classrooms throughout the county. The Mentors receive training and support to integrate into the classrooms and provide an extra set of helping hands for teachers and extra academic support for students.

New sites this year include the Midian Leadership Project, housed in Kanawha County and the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Each of these new sites represents an increase in the Education Alliance AmeriCorps Mentors footprint as we reach new areas across the state.

Other long-standing partners including: Kanawha County Step by Step INC., Williamstown High School, and Pleasants County Schools continue to utilize AmeriCorps members at various grade levels to enhance student success.



3,520
Students Served

68%
Showed Academic Improvement

23,806
Volunteer Hours Leveraged

AmeriCorps Grow Your Own

The AmeriCorps Grow Your Own (GYO) program enables high school juniors and seniors participating in their school district's GYO program to serve as AmeriCorps members in elementary and middle school classes. The GYO members gain hands-on career "practicum" experience in the teaching field as they progress on a career pathway to become a professional educator.

Grow Your Own creates an accelerated pathway for students interested in becoming teachers while they are still in high school, with an incentive to remain in-state upon completion of their degree. By serving in AmeriCorps, the members earn a paid Living Allowance, Education Award, and other educational benefits, while gaining practical experience.

This past year, Education Alliance Grow Your Own Members served in returning programs from Braxton, Mercer and McDowell Counties. They were joined by members in new Grow Your Own programs in Wayne, Lewis, and Jefferson Counties. Together, these programs hosted 50 Grow Your Own Mentors who received training and support and made a tremendous impact serving younger students, while furthering their own education for the future.



College Ambassadors

The College Ambassador program engages dynamic individuals as AmeriCorps members who serve as an “ambassador” to coach and support high school students and adults to enroll in college.

This year, College Ambassadors at BridgeValley Community & Technical College (CTC), Mountwest CTC, and WVU Parkersburg worked directly with their local college/university Admissions and Student Services offices to increase student enrollment and retention. The Ambassadors regularly visited local middle and high schools in their recruitment area to help spread the word about their college and bolster enrollment. Outside of recruitment season, Ambassadors also worked to help enrolled students navigate through the new college environment successfully. They often serve as one more “friendly face” in the college who can help students access the resources and support they need to succeed.



AmeriCorps Service: Coats4Kids

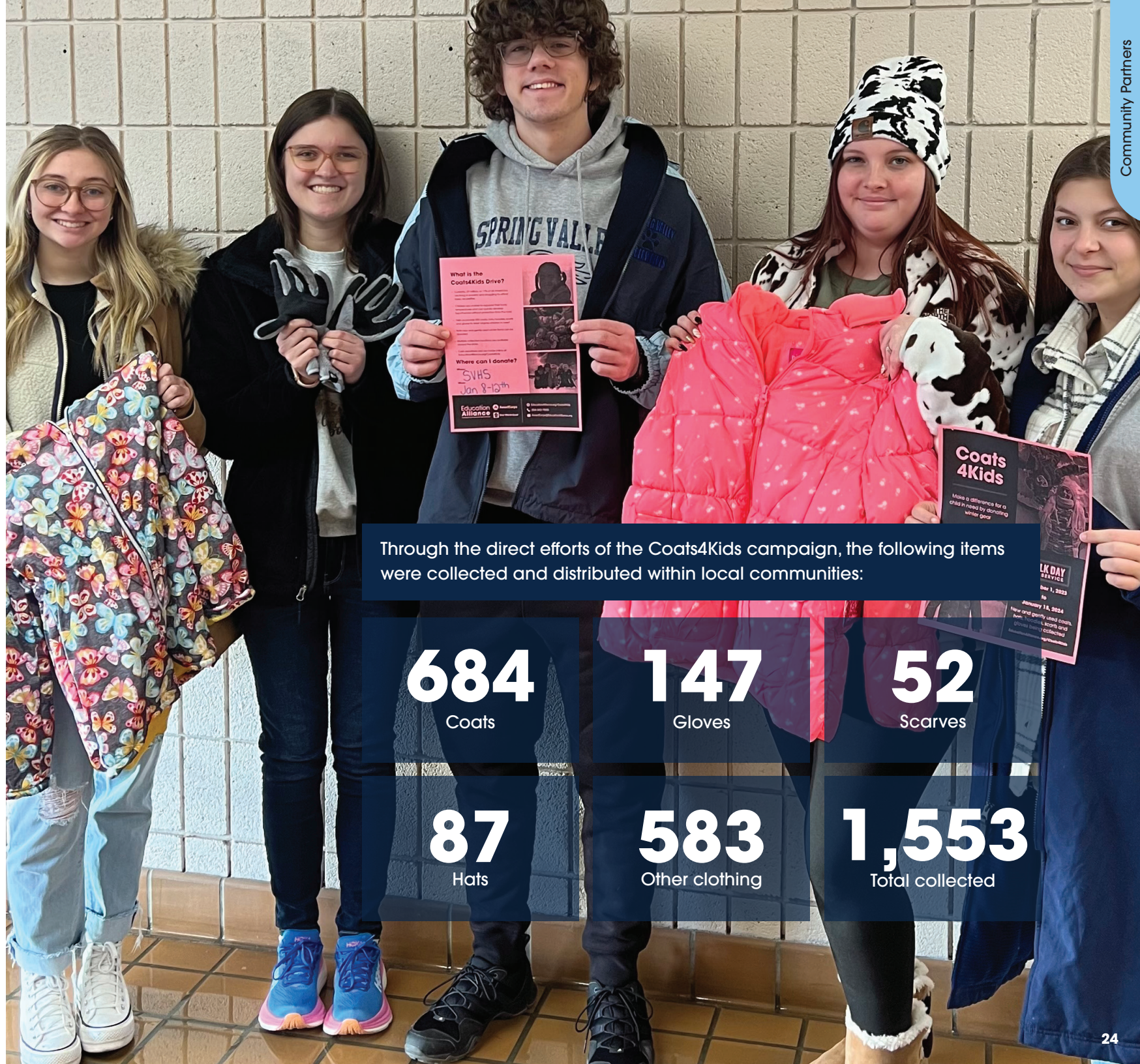
Each year, in honor of MLK Day of Service, Education Alliance AmeriCorps members and volunteers work to collect winter clothing and gear for West Virginia children and families in need.

This year the 4th annual Coats4Kids coat drive was conducted from December 1, 2023 through January 15, 2024. The Alliance partnered with local businesses and the community to arrange drop-off donation locations across West Virginia.

AT&T Digital Connect

As part of AT&T's Digital Connect initiative, Education Alliance Grow Your Own AmeriCorps Mentors in McDowell County led a service activity in their community that provided **free, hands-on Digital Training for Parents and Grandparents**. Through a random drawing, we awarded two lucky audience members with **brand new laptops courtesy of AT&T's Digital Connect** initiative.

AmeriCorps programming is made possible by generous support of: Volunteer West Virginia, AT&T, and the Parkersburg Community Area Foundation.



Through the direct efforts of the Coats4Kids campaign, the following items were collected and distributed within local communities:

684
Coats

147
Gloves

52
Scarves

87
Hats

583
Other clothing

1,553
Total collected

Business Partners

04

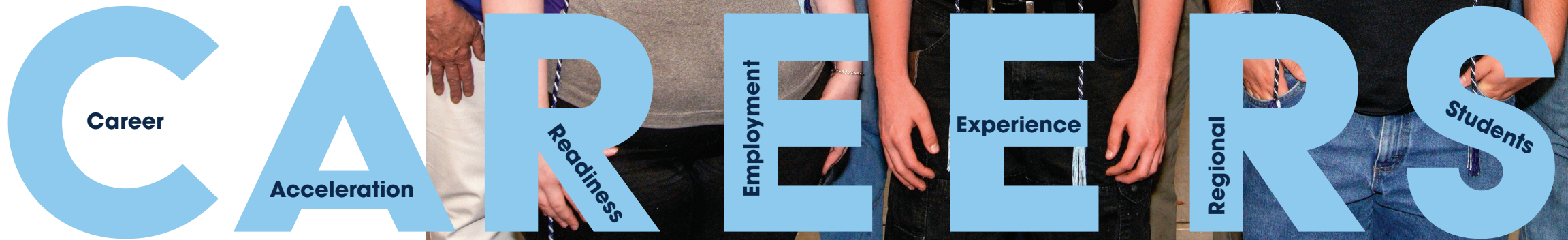
Team • Teach

Herry Fugate
Guest of
Brayden Fugate

CAREERS

The Career Acceleration, Readiness, and Employment Experiences for Region Students (CAREERS) initiative provides high school students with hands-on learning and internships to enhance skills and employment opportunities in high wage/high skill careers.

In 2023-24, with funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission leveraged business partnerships with Toyota Motor Manufacturing in West Virginia and Mississippi, and with WVU Medicine to accelerate career pathways in manufacturing (4T) and healthcare (MedEd).



The MedEd program with WVU Medicine launched its first year of implementation with both Monongalia and Jefferson County Schools. Modeled on the 4T program, 11th grade students are onsite at their respective hospital locations one day a week and rotate through various different departments to get a broad overview of healthcare careers. Seniors will be “matched” with one hospital department for their entire senior year, with a paid internship during their second semester.

In this program, 18 Monongalia County Schools students joined MedEd with J.W. Ruby Memorial and Children’s Hospitals in Morgantown, WV. MedEd Jefferson enrolled 17 Jefferson County School students this year to begin the program in partnership with Jefferson Medical Center.

**18**

Monongalia County Schools
students joined MedEd

17

Jefferson County School
students joined MeEd

Last year the WV 4T Academy began its second year with Kanawha County Schools, and first year with Putnam County Schools officially launching their 4T program.

The 4T Academy in WV enrolled 31 students in Kanawha County and 36 students in Putnam County (11th and 12th grades). The WV 4T Academy graduated 16 total students, and graduating seniors were awarded a graduation cord, awards from Toyota WV, and full-time job offers with Toyota WV. As part of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) ARISE grant, the Education Alliance is collaborating with Toyota Motor Manufacturing Mississippi (MS) and New Albany School District in Mississippi to launch the MS 4T Academy. This past year was a planning year and the MS 4T program will launch in August 2024.

CAREERS is made possible through the generous funding provided by: ARC ARISE grant, and the Claude Worthington Benedum and Steeley Foundations.



4T Academy

36

Putnam County School
Students Enrolled

4T Academy

31

Kanawha County School
Students Enrolled

4T Academy

16

Graduating Students
(both counties)

CAREER Outcomes

1,197

9-10th grade students served

1,165

9-10th grade students improved

155

11-12th grade served

110

11-12th grade improved

230

Families served



WV Ready Internships

The WV Ready Internships program is a paid, four-week summer program that provides quality, real-world career readiness internships for high school juniors and seniors.

The 2023 Summer Internship program expanded to five participating businesses last year that hosted 27 interns at: Appalachian Power, Hope Gas, Mon Health, Toyota Motor Manufacturing WV, and Solar Holler. Throughout the month-long internship, interns rotated through various departments at each company, learned company culture and processes, and presented a capstone project during the final week. Students applied, were accepted, and received training in the program with businesses across West Virginia. These quality internships provide the students with career awareness and work-based learning experiences so they can make informed decisions about their future career.

WV Ready Internships is made possible by the generous financial support from the American Electric Power Foundation and Toyota



5
Participating
Businesses

27
Interns

Work-Based Learning

The Virtual Work-Based Learning program is a semester-long virtual program in which businesses partner with high schools to provide students with career awareness through virtual job-shadowing modules and work-based learning.

This past year the Virtual Work-Based Learning program grew to include 11 businesses and 8 schools. Each week, one of the 11 businesses provided a virtual training module to showcase their industry and “introduce” various team members and careers. This weekly training enabled students to increase their awareness of career opportunities and also develop professional skills to ensure they are ready and equipped for success. Each of the weekly live modules is facilitated by an Alliance team member and is recorded and uploaded on our website for schools across the state to access “on demand” (EducationAlliance.org/WBL).

As part of the Virtual Work-Based Learning program, some schools choose to go more in depth and participate in a Capstone challenge assigned by the business. This year Lincoln County High School, Wayne High School, and Valley High School all had engaging, real-world Capstone projects that encouraged them to engage in data analysis, problem solving, and teamwork. Students presented their findings to the business leaders as a culminating activity.

The Work-Based Learning program was made possible by the generous funding of: American Electric Power Foundation, Dominion Energy, Dow, Enterprise, MPLX, Toyota, and WV GEAR UP



11
Businesses

8
Schools

Innovation Showcase

The Wetzel County EQT Innovation Showcase is a partnership with EQT that works with student teams from all four Wetzel County high schools using Design Thinking to engineer solutions.

In May 2024, they competed in the 6th annual **EQT Innovation Showcase**. The showcase was judged by representatives from the EQT, the community, school system, and the Education Alliance. Paden City High School's winning STEM project is a patent-pending app. Developed as a social and emotional learning system, the app was designed by students for students to help create a positive school atmosphere and combat issues such as bullying.

The Innovation Showcase programs are made possible by the generous financial support of EQT Foundation.



Caperton Center

The Caperton Center for School Business Partnerships provides support and resources to develop and sustain school-business partnerships that promote student success.

In 2023, the Caperton Center for School and Business Partnerships produced a Revitalization Report that highlighted key strategies to strengthen and “revitalize” school-business partnerships which were negatively impacted by the pandemic. To turn these strategies into action, the Education Alliance formed a **Regional Partnership Council (RPC)**, comprised of a group of education, economic development, chamber of commerce and other stakeholders who champion school-business partnerships. The RPC’s plan focused on creating:

- **Partnership Toolkit** to provide guidance for local schools and businesses to support successful partnerships
- **Partnership Portal** where schools and businesses can register and connect partnerships
- **Partnership Recognition** to recognize and showcase partnerships’ best practice

These resources are well underway, and we look forward to sharing them in the coming year.

The Caperton Center was created in 2022 as an endowed fund to perpetually strengthen the impact of school-business partnerships on student success. It was made possible by the generous support of more than 100 individual and corporate donors. For a full list of donors, visit EducationAlliance.org/Caperton.



WV Education Summit

The 2023 Education Summit, themed “AI & the Future of Work—Partnerships for Student Success,” showcased K-12 classroom innovation through engaging dialogue with national and state thought leaders.

Over 200 attendees from various sectors discussed the importance of preparing students for the evolving job landscape shaped by AI technologies. Keynote speaker Matt Sigelman, President of Burning Glass Institute, along with an industry panel, emphasized the significance of adapting education to meet future challenges and opportunities. The event included a student expo highlighting exemplary school innovations and concluded with a workshop focused on fostering partnerships to better prepare students for the future.

The Summit was made possible by the generous support of sponsors including: Appalachian Power, Bowles Rice, EQT, First Energy Foundation, Jackson Kelly PLLC, Service Wire, Toyota WV, ZMM Architects and Alpha Technology, Arclin, Charleston Area Medical Center, Marshall Health, WV Economic Development, United Bank.



Over
200
Schools

EdTalks

The 2024 EdTalks was held in Huntington, WV at the stunning new Marshall University Brad Smith Business and Innovation Center that elevated the experience. Nearly 125 attendees were inspired by this year's speakers addressing the theme "New Core Partnerships," which highlighted strategies that are both innovative and essential in school business partnerships.

West Virginia State Senator Amy Grady shared how her experiences as a classroom teacher have affirmed that local and regional business engagement can spark students' visions of their future. John Farris, Vice President and General Manager of Nucor Steel WV reminded attendees that students need exposure to opportunities to visualize "a line of sight" to their successful future in the mountain state. Both speakers spoke passionately about how every caring adult can impact students at their local school with the gift of their time.

EdTalks was made possible by the generous support of sponsors including: Wing2Wing Foundation, Appalachian Power, Bowles Rice, Dow, Jackson Kelly, Marshall Health, Service Wire, Toyota WV.



Nearly
125
Attendees

Mastery-Based Learning

The Mastery-Based Learning initiative supports a network of high schools committed to implementing competency-based learning approaches and structures that promote student success.

In 2023-24, school leadership teams from Berkeley, Kanawha, Ohio, Upshur, and Wetzel Counties continued their journey as a professional learning network striving to move towards a competency-based approach. The approach is designed to engage students in their learning process to clearly demonstrate mastery of specific skills and knowledge, rather than spending a set amount of time in class. In November and March, our team, partnering with the West Virginia Department of Education and Great Schools Partnership, conducted professional learning site visits at two of the network schools in West Virginia.



Partner Appreciation

06



Education Alliance Team

In this year of achievements and milestones, we are truly grateful for our dedicated team. Their unwavering commitment, passion, and innovation have helped strengthen powerful partnerships between education and industry that benefit our students and state. We are grateful for their spirit and drive that turn possibilities into realities.



Thank you
for embodying
the essence
of partnerships
and collaboration,
and for your hard
work to support
a brighter, shared
future for all.

Celebrating 40 Years

In December 2023, the Alliance concluded our 40th Anniversary Celebration with a gala event that brought together emeritus board members, current and former business partners, state education leaders, policy makers and community members to celebrate this momentous event. We appreciate the leadership of our keynote speaker, Albert Wright, CEO of WVU Medicine and each person who helped make this event so successful. We look forward to the next 40 years!



Donor List

Founders' Circle (\$100K and above)

Appalachian Regional Commission
 Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
 Roy & Gwen Steeley Foundation, Inc.
 Toyota Motor Manufacturing WV

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

AT&T Foundation

Presidents' Circle (\$10K - \$24,999)

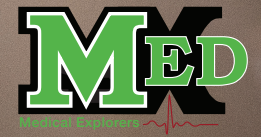
Bowles Rice Foundation
 Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
 DOW Inc.
 Enterprise Holdings Foundation
 EQT Resources Foundation
 Jackson Kelly PLLC
 Helen Epps
 Paula Flaherty
 Rural Action, Inc
 Wing2Wing Foundation

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

City National Bank
 ENCOVA
 Fairmont State Foundation
 Fenton Foundation, Inc
 First Energy Corp
 Frost Brown Todd
 James Thomas
 Marshall Health Network
 Midian Leadership
 Mon Health/Vandalia Health
 MVB Banking, Inc.

Parkersburg Area Community Foundation
 Steptoe & Johnson
 ZMM Architects & Engineers





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

Aaron Walker
Alpha Technologies
Anthony Dasaro
Beth Hammers
Brett Staples
Cabell Huntington Hospital
CAMC
Carbon Fuel Foundation
Christina Brumley
Dale Bowyer
Daniel Foster
David Rosier
Dingess-Rum Properties, Inc
Gat Caperton
Herscher Foundation
Howard Seufer
Jessica Alsop

Joseph McDonie
Judith Gemma Ritchie
Mountain Health Network
Potomac Valley Audubon Society
Service Wire Company
Sharon Chapman
St. Mary's Medical Center
Stephen Hopta
Trey Morrone
Trish Weisberg
WV Office of Economic Development

**Cum Laude
(\$500 - \$999)**

Amelia Courts
Andy Feeney
Brett Staples
Carolyn Long

D. F. Mock III
David Mohr
Erica Mani
Erica Steratore
James & Sharon Rowe
Joanne Tomblin
Joneil Carver
Joshua & Sheanna Spence
Lois Crichton
MaryLu Hutchins
United Bank

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(\$499 - below)**

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Annette Javorsky
Bill Powell

Danny Wilkinson
Derek Kurtzman
Derek Vance
Despina Kapourales
Emily Popadopoulis
Erica Wilkes
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Martha Propps
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Richard Cassis
Sally Barton
Sammy L. Gray II
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Stephen Hastings
Toney Stroud
Tonya Skeens
Zachary Snodgrass



“When you learn,
teach. When you
get, give.”

Maya Angelou