

CONNECTIONS

School Business Community Labor

A publication of The Education Alliance, West Virginia's statewide public education fund

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PEN honors Alliance with national award

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Public Education Network named The Education Alliance its 2006 recipient of the Wendy D. Puriefoy Award at its 16th Annual Conference, Nov. 12, 2006.

The annual award honors the nation's most outstanding local education fund, or LEF, recognizing its contributions to create conditions of learning that benefit all children. The Education Alliance was selected from more than 80 other LEF members.

"Through our deliberations, one local education fund emerged as truly exemplary and deserving of this prestigious award," said Chairman David Hornbeck, PEN Board of Directors. "Their work has brought about measurable impact not only on school districts, but upon an entire state."

In making their selection, committee members cited the Alliance's work to close the achievement gap by attracting highly-skilled educators and embracing intensive reforms in teaching and learning. They also commended the Alliance's commitment to enhance the connection between schools and community by assigning a business partner to every school in the state.



PEN Chairman David Hornbeck presents the 2006 Wendy D. Puriefoy Award to Dr. Hazel Palmer, president/CEO of The Education Alliance. The Alliance has been a member of the Public Education Network since its founding in 1983.

"Although The Education Alliance is flattered that the work of its board members, staff and contributors has been recognized on a national scale, this award gives us all the more reason to work even harder on behalf of West Virginia's students," said Hazel K. Palmer, president/CEO of The Education Alliance.

The Puriefoy Award was created in 2003 to honor PEN President Wendy Puriefoy for "a lifetime of advocacy for quality public education, social justice and increased opportunity and decades of exemplary dedication, uncommon vision, personal sacrifice and steadfast advocacy on behalf of America's children," according to a PEN news release. Past winners have included the Boston Plan for Excellence in the Public Schools in 2003, Public Education Foundation of Chattanooga, Tenn. in 2004 and the Mobile (Ala.) Area Education Foundation in 2005.

Four new members appointed to Alliance Board of Directors

The Education Alliance welcomed four new members to its Board of Directors Tuesday, Dec. 5, at its annual meeting.

New members are Deborah Herndon, West Virginia American Water Company president; Michael John, vice president of operations for Chesapeake Energy Eastern Division; Bill Smith, Cabell County Schools superintendent; and Mallie Combs Snider, executive director of the

Hardy County Rural Economic Development Authority.

These new members join the 31-member board composed of business leaders and education advocates from across West Virginia. The newly-elected members will attend regular meetings and participate in decision-making processes regarding the Alliance's role in public education. Each will serve a three-year term through December 2009.

For the bookworms in your classroom

reserve your Book Trunk today!

Book Trunks are a free service of The Education Alliance. Working as a library system, trunks with up to 110 books are loaned out for up to three months. This learning tool is available for K-8 classrooms in West Virginia public schools. Educators can select trunks with different themes, genders or curriculum requirements to



90 classroom projects awarded mini-grant funding

Of 269 applications submitted, 90 were selected to receive awards totaling more than \$50,000. The 2006-2007 mini-grants are sponsored by Mylan Charitable Foundation, Columbia Gas Transmission, TOYOTA Motor Manufacturing West Virginia Inc., West Virginia Humanities Council, Carter Family Foundation, The Huntington Foundation and State Farm Insurance Companies.

Berkeley County

Kristina Sloan
Mill Creek Intermediate School
 Deborah Stevens
Musselman High School

Boone County

Pam Atha
Van Elementary School
 Christopher Bias
Madison Middle School
 Kathy Swanson
Ashford-Rumble Elementary School

Cabell County

Teresa Crum
Central City Elementary School
 Marsha Dille
Peyton Elementary School
 Fran Stanton
Highlawn Elementary School
 Terri Holley
Enslow Middle School
 Anna Holst
Guyandotte Elementary School
 Shannon Phillips
Beverly Hills Middle School

Calhoun County

Faye Chambers
Calhoun Middle/High School

Clay County

Marlene Lewis
Clay Elementary School
 Kathi Linkinoggor
Clay Elementary School
 Warren Mullins
Clay County High School
 Erica Samples
Clay Elementary School
 Melissa Stephenson
Clay Middle School
 Tracy Wayne
Clay Elementary School

Fayette County

Ronzel Boothe
Meadow Bridge Elementary School
 Christy Gill
Divide Elementary School
 Sue Miller*
Meadow Bridge Elementary School

Gilmer County

Tamyra Cundiff*
Glenville/Sandfork elementary schools

Greenbrier County

Deborah Alderman
White Sulphur Springs Elementary School
 Carla Bundy
Rupert Elementary School
 Kimberly Curry
Eastern Greenbrier Middle School
 Debra Diem
Lewisburg Elementary School
 Bobbie Deitz-Butcher
Lewisburg Elementary School
 Diane Gillespie
Lewisburg Elementary School
 Beth Modrzakowski
Eastern Greenbrier Middle School

Hancock County

Roberta DeFrancis
Weir High School
 Anne Ford*
Oak Glen Middle School

Jackson County

Tina Davis
Ravenswood Grade School
 Cheryl Miller
Ripley Elementary School
 Jane Singleton
Gilmore Elementary School

Jefferson County

Dan Grodzicki
T.A. Lowery Elementary School
 Beth Pennington
Shepherdstown Middle School

Kanawha County

Debbie Cannada
Glenwood Elementary School
 Deanna Canterbury-Penn
Riverside High School
 Melinda Cox
Horace Mann Middle School
 Karen Kersey
Alban Elementary School
 John Richmond
Hayes Middle School
 Nancy Williams
Herbert Hoover High School

Lewis County

Lesley White
Lewis County High School

Lincoln County

Beth Joyce
Lincoln County High School

Logan County

Rickey Rakes
Logan Middle School

Marshall County

Susan Fox
John Marshall High School
 Shawna Zervos
McNinch Elementary School

McDowell County

John Boots
Sandy River Middle School
 Joseph Boyd
Big Creek High School
 Edward Evans*
Mount View Middle School

Mercer County

Elizabeth Brinkley
Montcalm High School
 Deborah Clark
Princeton Senior High School
 Angela Cox
Bluefield Middle School
 Ann Wells
Princeton Senior High School

Mineral County

Charmaine Pritts
New Creek School
 Mary Romig
New Creek School

Monongalia County

Eric Kincaid
Morgantown High School

Monroe County

Sandra Humphries
Mountain View Elementary Middle School

Nicholas County

Peggy Benton
Birch River Elementary School
 Mary Jane Williams
Richwood High School

Ohio County

Sharon Whitecotton
Bridge Street Middle School

Putnam County

Nellie Johnson
Winfield Middle School
 Amanda Knapp
Buffalo High School

Raleigh County

Carol Roach
Liberty High School

Randolph County

Matthew Ramsey*
Elkins Middle School

Summers County

Debra Bower
Hinton Area Elementary School
 Brenda Braswell
Summers Middle School
 Nellie Dolan
Talcott Elementary School
 Tucker Ford
Talcott Elementary School
 Kelli Hill
Summers Middle School

Taylor County

Darlene Martin
Grafton High School
 Pam Miller
Taylor County Middle School

Tucker County

Amanda Kisamore
Davis Thomas Elementary School

Wayne County

Devona Myers
Spring Valley High School
 Nancy Stumbo
Vinson Middle School
 Carol Thorp
Ceredo/Kenova elementary schools

Wirt County

Erin Carper
Wirt County Middle School

Wood County

Margaret Hunter
Williamstown Elementary School
 Becky Jorgensen
Vienna Elementary School
 Mika Martin
Mineral Wells Elementary School
 Garland Roberts
Williamstown High School

*Denotes teacher who received more than one mini-grant award

Benefits of partnerships generating statewide attention

The recently-released West Virginia Civic Index found that West Virginians are concerned about jobs and the economy but also recognize their business leaders as strong allies with the state government in helping make students prepared for the 21st century job market.

So, how can educators and business leaders work together more effectively to impact student learning? That became the major question explored by more than 150 civic leaders, educators and business professionals during the Conference on Business Leadership in Education held Jan. 4, 2007, in Charleston, Wheeling and Martinsburg.

The conference, sponsored by the 21st Century Jobs Cabinet of West Virginia in partnership with The Education Alliance, focused on learning more about Florida's Partnership to Advance School Success (PASS) program and The Education Alliance's Partnerships in Education program in West Virginia.

"We want [stakeholders'] input about how we can gain from giving schools an opportunity to work with experienced CEOs and how to tap the talent that we have in our own business community,"

said First Lady and Jobs Cabinet Co-Chair Gayle Manchin in her opening remarks at the conference.

Representing the successful school/business relationships part of the Alliance's Partnerships in Education program were featured speakers Darlene Colgrove, of the Woodcraft Supply/Worthington Elementary School partnership in Wood County; Principal Joe Newcome from Brookhaven Elementary School in Monongalia County; and Bobby Robinson, representing State Farm and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity partnership with Glenwood Elementary School, Kanawha County. Each of these individual partnerships focused on student mentoring and tutoring to impact academic and behavioral outcomes.

The Florida PASS program uses similar techniques and also brings business CEOs onto a school's partnership team and uses retired principals to assist the principals of struggling schools.

During the conference, attendees also discussed how to strengthen the impact of the Partnerships in Education program on West Virginia public schools, identify messages and incentives for students,

Governor introduces new SEEDS program partnership

During his State of the State Address on Jan. 10, 2007, Gov. Joe Manchin introduced a new three-year program that he hopes will strengthen business/education relationships across the state.

The Student Educational and Economic Development Success program, or SEEDS, will be a public/private partnership between the State of West Virginia and The Education Alliance. It will use well-established business practices, such as time management, goal setting and measurement of performance, to help transform struggling schools. This voluntary program will be available to principals open to change and enthusiastic about new ways of thinking.

parents and teachers that will improve academic outcomes and raise a private-sector development fund to invest in public schools.

The overarching themes that emerged at the conference were for increased vision, flexibility, planning and measurable outcomes, creativity, respect and inclusion and communication among the school, business and home environments.

State Scholars gaining momentum in pilot counties

The State Scholars Initiative in West Virginia began visiting the classrooms of eighth-grade students in January. Business volunteers are giving presentations to students in Braxton, Monroe, Ohio and Wood counties to talk about the importance of taking more rigorous course work in high school.

Companies such as United Bank, State Farm Insurance Companies, DuPont Washington Works, BB&T, Traders Bank, The Huntington National Bank, Kraton Polymers and West Virginia American Water have provided enthusiastic volunteers to relay this important message to students.

"In today's competitive business environment, it is critical that our young adults be prepared for the future and ready to enter the workforce," said Deborah Herndon, president of West Virginia American Water. "The State Scholars Initiative, in challenging students to take more rigorous course work, encourages students to take that critical first step that will ultimately benefit both the students as well as the state's employers."

Volunteers like Herndon are making presentations in each eighth-grade social studies classroom. These presentations are designed to show the importance of a solid high school education in preparing

students for post-secondary education or the workforce.

Funding for the State Scholars program comes from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, through a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about this program or to become a volunteer, contact Mr. Carey Sadowski at (304) 342-7851, or e-mail him at careysadowski@educationalliance.org.

The work reported herein was supported under State Scholars Initiative, PR/Award Number V051U050006 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.

2007 Calendar of Events

March 1	Family Involvement Grant applications due
Feb. 28	Research summary release— <i>Gender Differences in Reading Achievement: Policy Implications and Best Practices</i>
May 8	National Teacher Day
May 18	Research summary release— <i>The Impact of Early Childhood Education in Closing the Achievement Gap</i>
June 5	Graduates of Distinction luncheon
late August	Mini-Grant applications mailed
Oct. 18	10th Annual Pumpkin Drop
Oct. 23	Mini-Grant applications due
Nov. 12-16	National Children's Book Week
Nov. 15	Read to Me! Day
Dec. 4	The Education Alliance Annual Dinner

The Apple Legacy continues

In 2001, The Education Alliance started the Apple Legacy program to acknowledge annual contributions of \$500 or greater with a commemorative glass apple, hand-blown by Blenko Glass Company in Milton, W.Va.



A different color apple is selected each year to represent distinct accomplishments of The Education Alliance, such as stewardship, 20 years of public service, opportunities for higher student achievement, quality programs, community involvement and a statewide presence.

The seventh apple in the series, the 2007 apple is lime green, symbolizing the growth The Education Alliance has experienced during its 24-year history.

The Apple Legacy will end next year, in 2008, as the organization celebrates its 25th year serving the students of West Virginia. The Education Alliance plans to celebrate this milestone with a ruby red apple.

For more information about the Apple Legacy or to make a tax deductible contribution to help K-12 public education in West Virginia, contact Terri McCloy, Director of Development, at (304) 342-7859 or terrimcclloy@educationalliance.org