

The West Virginia Public Education
Collaborative's Third Annual
Legislators' Forum on Education
and the Economy

Moving West Virginia Forward:

Policy in Practice

December 3-4, 2018



Table of Contents

Welcome..... 2

About the WVPEC..... 3

Agenda.....4

Keynote Address..... 6

Connecting Education and the Workforce.....7

What School Can Be in West Virginia..... 8

Lunch and Conversation with Educators..... 9

Bridging P-20..... 10

Supporting Our Educators..... 11

West Virginia’s Innovation Economy..... 12



Dear Friend of the WVPEC,

This year, the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative was excited to host our third annual Legislators' Forum, the first to be opened to the entire WV Senate and House of Delegates.

The Forum and our kickoff dinner, held December 3-4, brought our legislators together with thought leaders from across the state and nation for a dynamic discussion on education and the economy. Key-note speakers Ted Dintersmith and Dr. Stephen Pruitt added a national perspective to the Forum and dinner, and session topics included connecting education and the workforce, innovation in education, supporting our teachers, streamlining the P-20 education system, and entrepreneurship in West Virginia. We hope that the nonpartisan information shared will help to inform our legislators as they move into the 2019 legislative session.

As the WVPEC transitions into 2019, we take with us all that we have learned at the Legislators' Forum and our first Focus Forward conference, which centered on emerging issues in West Virginia, particularly artificial intelligence and machine learning. These events will continue to inform initiatives like the West Virginia STEM Inventory and a statewide Speakers' Bureau, which attempt to catalogue STEM resources and speakers from the workforce in order to enrich our students' learning experiences. The WVPEC will also focus on producing informative, nonpartisan white papers on pressing educational topics.

Three of the top action items for the WVPEC are convening regional meetings for legislators to learn about requested topics, pursuing promising new partnerships, and disseminating education-related updates on the legislative session this January.

Please feel free to contact us at wvpec@mail.wvu.edu if you are interested in collaborating on any WVPEC initiatives, or if you have any suggestions for topics to address through research and convenings in 2019.

We would like to thank all of you once again for being friends of public education in our state. It would be impossible to move West Virginia forward into a prosperous future without you.



Donna Hoylman Peduto
Executive Director
West Virginia Public Education Collaborative



About the WVPEC

The West Virginia Public Education Collaborative is a non-partisan collaborative of diverse state and national leaders committed to championing public schools in West Virginia from early childhood into college or career training. By engaging key local stakeholders and national experts through outreach and innovative initiatives, WVPEC partner-members aim to identify West Virginia schools' most pressing educational needs, remove barriers to student success and positively impact the educational system and economy of the state.

The WVPEC was founded by West Virginia University President Gordon Gee and former Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley in 2014. Membership is representative of all sectors involved in public education and includes experts in rural education, technology education and the school-to-workforce pipeline. The collaborative is headquartered in West Virginia University's Office of the Provost to ensure a neutral viewpoint and cross-disciplinary collaboration and to facilitate flexibility.

To date, the WVPEC has sponsored numerous initiatives, including the annual Legislators' Forum (now in its third year) and Focus Forward: Preparing Today for the West Virginia of Tomorrow. Both events help to initiate a dialogue interweaving numerous views on education and the economy in our state while bringing together many different groups, including educators, policymakers and thought leaders from across the state. While the Legislators' Forum focuses mainly on the role of state-level policymakers in effecting positive change, Focus Forward, an event convened for the first time this past October, focuses on emerging issues in West Virginia and how public and private sectors can come together to address those issues.

The WVPEC is also moving forward with pilot initiatives to create a statewide STEM Inventory and a Speakers' Bureau. The STEM Inventory, which began as a catalog of activities, initiatives and academic programs at WVU, is now being expanded to include STEM across the state. Similarly, the Speakers' Bureau will take stock of the human capital resources we already have in West Virginia in the form of mentors. Through the Speakers' Bureau, leaders from the workforce will be connected with students and teachers in our public-school system.

The WVPEC's work is expanding in both scope and reach at an ideal time to engage and collaborate with stakeholders to move West Virginia towards a prosperous future. Interest in West Virginia's education system has recently been revitalized and the WVPEC is committed to supporting best-practice education policy that positively impacts both students and teachers. The collaborative's goals align seamlessly with those of West Virginia Forward and the WVPEC can guide efforts to enhance human capital and strengthen our workforce by championing public schools. With the support of member-partners and donors, the WVPEC will continue to break down barriers facing public education and foster a network of educational advocates and changemakers across the state.

Agenda: Monday, December 3, 2018

5:00 pm: Reception

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Legislators' Forum Kickoff Dinner

Introduction and Welcome

Joyce McConnell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, West Virginia University

A West Virginia Forward Update

E. Gordon Gee, President, West Virginia University

Why Human Capital Matters

Jennifer Giovannitti, President, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

The National Landscape in Education and Workforce Readiness

Moderated by Rochelle Goodwin, Senior Associate Vice President for Academic and Public Strategy, West Virginia University

- E. Gordon Gee, President, West Virginia University
- Ted Dintersmith, Educational Innovator
- Stephen Pruitt, President, Southern Regional Education Board

Overview of 2018 Legislators' Forum

Donna Hoylman Peduto, Executive Director, West Virginia Public Education Collaborative

Thank you to our members, partner organizations and generous donors for making the WVPEC Legislators' Forum possible!

Agenda: Tuesday, December 4, 2018

8:30 am - 8:40 am: Welcome and remarks

- Gayle Manchin, Chair, West Virginia Public Education Collaborative
- Patrick Sims, Director of Policy and Research, Hunt Institute

8:40 am - 9:00 am: Remarks from Mitch Carmichael, Senate President

9:00 am - 10:00 am: Opening keynote with introduction by Senator Robert Plymale

- Dr. Stephen Pruitt, President, Southern Regional Education Board

10:00 am - 11:00 am: Connecting Education and the Workforce

- Moderator: Dr. Jim Denova, WVPEC member and Vice President, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
- James Snider, Director, Tennessee Promise Scholarship, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation
- Dr. Jaime Taylor, Provost, Marshall University
- Dr. Johnny Moore, President, Pierpont Community & Technical College
- Amanda Winters, Senior Policy Analyst, National Governors Association

11:00 am - 12:15 pm: What School Can Be in West Virginia

- Ted Dintersmith, Leader in Educational Innovation
- Sunanna Chand, Director, Remake Learning

12:15 pm - 12:45 pm: Lunch and conversation with educators

- Introduction: Dr. Eddie Campbell, Superintendent, Monongalia County Schools

12:45 pm - 1:30 pm: Bridging P-20

- Introduction: Dr. Carolyn Long, Chancellor, WV Higher Education Policy Commission
- Dr. Amelia Courts, President and CEO, The Education Alliance
- Dr. Adam Green, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, WV Higher Education Policy Commission and WV Community and Technical College System

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm: Supporting our Educators

- Moderator: Dr. Tracy Morris, WVPEC member and Dean, WVU College of Education and Human Services
- Jada Reeves, 2019 WV Teacher of the Year
- Dr. Jan Barth, Assistant Superintendent, West Virginia Department of Education
- Dr. Matt Campbell, Assistant Professor, WVU College of Education and Human Services
- Dr. Jennifer Robertson-Honecker, STEM Specialist, WVU Extension Service

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm: WV's Innovation Economy

- Joyce McConnell, J.D., L.L.M., Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, West Virginia University
- Dr. Javier Reyes, Milan Puskar Dean, John Chambers College of Business and Economics, West Virginia University, and Vice President for Start-up West Virginia
- Dr. Avinandan Mukherjee, Dean, Lewis College of Business, Marshall University

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm: Wrap-up by Gayle Manchin and Donna Peduto

The National Landscape in Education

Joyce McConnell, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

Dr. E. Gordon Gee, President, West Virginia University

Jennifer Giovannitti, President, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

Dr. Stephen Pruitt, President, Southern Regional Education Board

Ted Dintersmith, Leader in Educational Innovation

Rochelle Goodwin, Senior AVP for Academic and Public Strategy, West Virginia University

Speakers discussed the importance of human capital to WV and delved into how crucial a thriving education system and economy both are to our state's future.

Key Takeaways:

- Educational attainment and the overall health of the population contribute to workforce participation and, therefore, economic growth.
- Jobs, sustainable incomes, and resiliency come with a specifically skilled workforce, and we need to be able to train and retain skilled workers in WV.
- Policy levers can affect generation after generation, and are key to a prosperous future for any state.
- We cannot be wedded to old ideas of what success looks like.



Keynote Address

Dr. Stephen Pruitt, President, Southern Regional Education Board

Dr. Pruitt stressed the importance of encouraging policymakers to think broadly about training the workforce of the future, while also focusing on ensuring equity and the importance of socioemotional health in schools.

Key Takeaways:

- Teacher prep, the changing workforce, and school climate are some of the most high-priority challenges in education today.
- Our skill level has to be accelerated because robots and artificial intelligence (AI) create more jobs—people just need better training to be able to do these jobs.
- Education is important, but we also need to take care of social and emotional welfare and encourage lifelong learning for all demographics. School counselors are as important as good teachers for the mental health needs of students.



Connecting Education and the Workforce

Moderator: Dr. Jim Denova, WVPEC member and Vice President, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

James Snider, Director, Tennessee Promise Scholarship, Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

Dr. Jaime Taylor, Provost, Marshall University

Dr. Johnny Moore, President, Pierpont Community & Technical College

Amanda Winters, Senior Policy Analyst, National Governors Association

Panelists discussed different methods used to make college more accessible, including scholarships and early college models, providing illustrations from exemplary states like Tennessee.

Key Takeaways:

- Dual credit and early college models and college promise scholarships are both important and growing in popularity.
- An outcomes-based model means that institutions are competing for success, not with each other. Outcomes-based models can incentivize institutions to serve different populations, and to invest more in student success.
- We have a tremendous opportunity to embrace dual credit and early college, and to look at investing in careers through community and technical colleges, which can provide individuals with the skills needed to fill jobs across the state.
- WV now has near-term opportunities for legislation regarding tuition-free associate degree completion—bills will be discussed in next session.



What School Can Be in West Virginia

Ted Dintersmith, Expert in Educational Innovation

Sunanna Chand, Director, Remake Learning Network

Dintersmith and Chand engaged in an interview focused on how education will need to change in response to a rapidly-evolving economy, highlighting the growing importance of teaching creativity and hands-on problem solving skills in schools.

Key Takeaways:

- Education today can be slow to evolve and continues to train for jobs that no longer exist. It focuses on rote memorization, rather than creativity and hands-on problem solving, which are key skills for students to learn.
- Career and technical education (CTE) is usually seen as an alternative to four-year institutions, but actually provides much more hands-on learning that applies to adult life and the workforce.
- Preparing for college and focusing on only test scores is detrimental to actual learning.
- Eliminating student assessment is not the answer. Teachers are fine being held accountable to standards that matter, and informed evaluations subject to checks and balances that examine student work are important.



Lunch and Conversation with Educators

Dr. Eddie Campbell, Superintendent, Monongalia County Schools

Featuring West Virginia teachers, principals, and superintendents

Dr. Campbell discussed opportunities and challenges facing West Virginia's public school system, highlighting exemplary practices in Monongalia County's public schools.

Key Takeaways:

- Great educators are key to any school system, and we need to ensure that WV's teachers are well-supported.
- In Monongalia County, several successful truancy diversion initiatives have been implemented in line with Senate Bill 393, which establishes a diversion process. These include collaborative classrooms, social workers and probation officers in schools, and the Alternative Path to Graduation (LEA) program, a middle and high school CTE program.
- We need to ensure that innovation begins in Pre-K with programs like Positive Intervention for Early Childhood Support (PIECES), Groups United to Inspire, Develop, and Educate Students (GUIDES), and Alternative Education Programs for Students Grades 6-12 (EXCEL) in Monongalia County.
- We must address mental health issues and needs of families and kids experiencing trauma.



Bridging P-20

Introduction: Dr. Carolyn Long, Chancellor, WV Higher Education Policy Commission

Dr. Amelia Courts, President and CEO, The Education Alliance

Dr. Adam Green, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, WV Higher Education Policy Commission and WV Community and Technical College System

Dr. Courts and Dr. Green introduced attendees to two new initiatives piloted by the Education Alliance and WV HEPC, WV Ready Graduate and WV's CLIMB. Ready Graduate focuses on grades P-12, while CLIMB is targeted towards postsecondary education.

West Virginia Ready Graduate

- WV Ready Graduate is the Education Alliance's graduate profile for West Virginia.
- West Virginia's graduation rate is 90%, but the challenge now is how many students need remediation and are not ready for the workforce.
- Graduate profiles are a national effort, and the Alliance's current goal is to launch 20,000 conversations.
- Students need foundational skills in STEM but also communication, collaboration, and a good work ethic, among other things.
- WV Ready Graduate is currently being piloted in Berkeley, Upshur, and Jackson County.

West Virginia's CLIMB

- WV's CLIMB is a statewide initiative with a goal to get 60% of West Virginians a degree or certificate by 2030.
- Currently, WV HEPC is looking at data to project workforce needs for 2030, as well as examining attainment in all areas of WV.



Supporting our Educators

Moderator: Dr. Tracy Morris, WVPEC member and Dean, WVU College of Education and Human Services

Jada Reeves, 2019 WV Teacher of the Year

Dr. Jan Barth, Assistant Superintendent, West Virginia Department of Education

Dr. Matt Campbell, Assistant Professor, WVU College of Education and Human Services

Dr. Jennifer Robertson-Honecker, STEM Specialist, WVU Extension Service

Speakers shared struggles faced by WV teachers, along with innovative ways to support teachers in ways that will encourage them to stay in the Mountain State.

Key Takeaways:

- In WV, teacher recruitment and retention are challenges. Poor leadership, lack of support, and few opportunities for professional development are cited as the primary reasons, and there is no single solution to this challenge.
- We focus on recruitment and sometimes forget about retention or getting current teacher candidates through the pipeline. We're increasing difficulty and accountability in many teacher prep programs.
- WV needs to find ways to recruit teacher candidates, such as math teachers, by investing in them and providing quality alternative certification.
- Teachers need more mentorship, and schools could use support from surrounding communities, along with more network building.
- Teacher preparation must be refreshed in order to prepare future teachers to utilize tools and strategies that reach the students of the future.
- Teachers must be supported through personalized and quality professional development, and opportunities for teacher leadership and ongoing mentoring.



West Virginia's Innovation Economy

Joyce McConnell, J.D., L.L.M., Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, West Virginia University

Dr. Javier Reyes, Milan Puskar Dean, John Chambers College of Business and Economics, West Virginia University, and Vice President for Start-up West Virginia

Dr. Avinandan Mukherjee, Dean, Lewis College of Business, Marshall University

Dr. Reyes and Dr. Mukherjee shared exciting news about the transformative gifts that WVU's and Marshall's colleges of business recently received. These gifts, and a partnership between the two colleges, have the potential to change WV and instill a spirit of entrepreneurship into the culture of our state.

Key Takeaways:

- We need a cultural shift toward a focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and attracting the best businesses.
- We must introduce high school students to fundamentals of business, entrepreneurship, and economics. STEM is inherently related to business and entrepreneurship.
- Innovation includes how you approach your day to day life, business, and anything else. Communities need to nurture entrepreneurship.



Takeaways: Key Policy Ideas

- Early college and dual enrollment/credit policy to enable every high school student to have the opportunity to get an associate's degree before they graduate
- Policy to create a model similar to the last dollar in model used in Tennessee, which enables students to attend community college at an affordable cost
- Policy to create alternative teacher certification pathways for uncertified teachers already in the classroom or those with careers in other fields who wish to teach
- Policy to refresh teacher preparation and prepare student teachers for the WV of tomorrow
- Policy to support teachers through personalized professional development and tuition reimbursement and incentivize teachers in certain content areas or districts
- Policy to establish new methods of assessing student learning, rather than relying mainly on test scores

Next Steps for the WVPEC

- The WVPEC will be pursuing promising partnerships with organizations and individuals who joined us for the Legislators' Forum and Focus Forward, in collaboration with WV Forward.
- Smaller regional convenings for legislators across the state will be a focus for the WVPEC in 2019. These convenings will focus on timely educational topics identified by WVPEC members and legislators.
- The WVPEC plans to collaborate on informative, nonpartisan research, and to produce legislative updates throughout the 2019 session focused on policies that impact education.



