

ANNUAL REPORT

THE
EDVENTURE
GROUP 2022



the **EdV**enture group™

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FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

WEST VIRGINIA FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

This year, WV FEC serviced the last 50 out of 100 schools in Cohort 3 and Cohort 4. January-July 2022 wrapped up Cohort 3 implementation and professional development. April-December 2022 provided support for Cohort 4. The team completed data collection from school employee interviews and family-facing interview groups that were shared with the 25 schools at a two-day, in-person kickoff event in August. Currently, schools are implementing hands-on family engagement through Advisory Council virtual meetings, Healthy Grandfamily events, Future Ready Career Fairs, Student of the Month Yard Signs, Family Game Nights, Family Wellness Nights, Fall Festivals, Informational Family Nights, and Volunteer Trainings.

RURAL VOICES LISTENING TOUR

The Rural Voices Listening Tour is a Flamboyant Funded supplement to the WV FEC project. The EdVenture team conducted family leader listening sessions in eight WV counties: Brooke, Fayette, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Logan, Nicholas, Randolph, and Tucker.

The listening sessions targeted 50-60 families in each county and reached over 200 families in total across the state. These sessions provided valuable insight into the following topics:

- Family perception of family engagement as a school priority
- Communication and connections between schools and families
- Mutual trust and respect between schools and families
- Met and unmet needs of families within the school environment
- Met and unmet needs of families within the community



FAMILY L.I.F.E. PROGRAM

Additionally, the Flamboyan Foundation is providing funding to support the development and implementation of the WV Leaders Investing in Family Engagement (L.I.F.E.) Program for Families. This program is developed to empower families to be equipped with the skills and confidence to serve as leaders in school-based and community-based settings. It builds on our existing L.I.F.E. program for school leaders and will connect school leaders and families in a quarterly community of practice. This program builds leadership capacity of families, enables families to serve as advocates for their students, creates an environment of statewide support to share successes, challenges, and needs around family engagement across the state, elevates family voice, and creates opportunities for enhanced family-school partnerships.

SCHOOL LEADER L.I.F.E. PROGRAM

The West Virginia Leaders Investing in Family Engagement (L.I.F.E) program focuses on building leadership capacity, effective family engagement strategies, and connected supportive networks for strong leadership. The program is open to school teams from the WVFEC program. A total of 89 individuals from 27 (13 high, 5 middle, 5 elementary) WVFEC schools have participated in the program to date. Cohorts kick-off in person each August followed by twice monthly meetings on a variety of topics centered around school leadership in challenging times and how to lead for learning recovery by cultivating family engagement amidst those challenges.



The first monthly session is two hours of delivered content and the second is devoted to development and implementation of the activities in collaboration within a collaborative pod.

The first cohort of the L.I.F.E Program graduated in May 2022, 98% of Cohort 1 participants said they have a better understanding of their leadership skills and how to utilize them in family engagement efforts. Cohort 2 will graduate in March 2023.

"I am a better educator due to my experiences and conversations associated with the L.I.F.E. program."

High School Principal



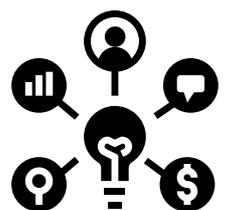
INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SIMULATED WORKPLACE ESHP EDUCATION PATHWAY

SWEEP delivers an experiential entrepreneurship curriculum framework for West Virginia CTE students. This four-course sequence provides theoretical and practical instruction and experience in developing and enriching entrepreneurship skills. This gives students the resources and support needed to take their ideas and turn them into established ventures. Partnerships with the West Virginia Department of Education, West Virginia University, and Marshall University enrich both the project's entrepreneurial ecosystem and its goal of developing future generations of Appalachian entrepreneurs. The project has been expanded to 10 schools in the pilot and will soon be expanded throughout the state. EdVenture leads overall program development and implementation.



CTE-BASED COMMUNITY INCUBATORS



As part of the SWEEP effort, EdVenture also supports the development and launch of CTE-based business incubators, including James Rumsey Technical Institute's Company Lab. To date, the Lab has served over 30 individual entrepreneurs, launched three new businesses, and saved existing businesses over \$500,000.



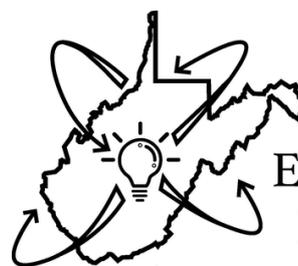
ECOSYSTEM SUPPORT FROM THE BENEDUM FOUNDATION

There are currently over 75 active monthly members, over 150 entrepreneur serving organizations (ESOs) registered, and more than 700 WV stakeholders have been involved since its start in 2019. The WVEE also hosts Bridging Innovation Week, a 5-day symposium packed with events ranging from workshops to vendor fairs to business competitions that provide a multi-faceted opportunity for business owners, entrepreneurs, and ESOs throughout West Virginia.

In 2023, WVEE will launch targeted working groups on the strategic topics of youth entrepreneurship, workforce, policy, and capital to conduct statewide mapping efforts, develop strategic visioning and plans for improvement, and implement pilot programs. EdVenture will serve as a lead partner in this effort.

WEST VIRGINIA ESHIP ECOSYSTEM

The project leverages funding from the Benedum Foundation to connect and identify opportunities to aide entrepreneurs across the state by bringing together key providers and resources. Monthly Entrepreneurship Ecosystem meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month to increase communication of events, opportunities, and resources around the state. The ecosystem shares best practices and inspires collaborations to grow the network of promotional, educational, and business development opportunities.



Entrepreneurship
Ecosystem

- [Bridging Innovation Week 2023](#)
- [WV Eship Ecosystem Monthly Meetings](#)

GREENE COUNTY INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

The Greene County Innovation Ecosystem (GCIE) is a collaborative effort made possible through funding from the EQT Foundation and facilitation by The EdVenture Group, Inc. The effort is designed to engage all five of Greene County, PA's school districts in immersive, collaborative education initiatives focused on the future of learning and 21st Century skills for students. Through co-creation and thought partnership, a core team of leaders from each district came together in March 2022 to ideate and brainstorm a compelling, county-wide initiative using existing resources to explore what education might be. Their first project was to host a county-wide eSports competition to generate buzz and interest in technology opportunities.



IMMERSIVE EQT

With EQT corporate funding, The EdVenture Group will be designing and launching the Immersive EQT curriculum. This series of lessons will utilize virtual and augmented reality technologies to enhance student understanding of the oil and gas industry and relevant, aligned careers. In total, 10 lessons focused on STEM foundations and career readiness will be co-developed with EQT subject area expertise. Each lesson will include an immersive experience, such as a site tour, as well as an actionable lesson to be implemented in middle- and high-school classrooms, with a particular focus on rural, place-based learning.





LITERACY

LEVEL UP PROGRAM

The Level Up: Achieving Literacy Goals at Home project provides schools with capacity-building resources to support literacy development. The project includes educator and family evaluation on family engagement and literacy, educator training, family-facing grade-level reading literacy kits, and structured literacy-focused family engagement events. The primary intervention supported by the Level Up project is developing and delivering 13 take-home literacy kits that families can check out from school when they need supplemental literacy resources.

Currently, the project is piloted in 10 WVFE elementary schools and is collecting preliminary data through surveys and focus group interviews on the home-to-school connection, confidence in caregivers, and the procedure of providing on-level resources at home.



PATHWAYS TO LITERACY

Funded by the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund, the project integrates literacy in an outdoor environment with movement and engagement through the construction of twenty-four StoryWalk® displays. Students and families will be provided the opportunity to improve literacy skills in a creative way.

Each StoryWalk® display will consist of a page from a children's book, family engagement conversation starters, and physical activities for students, families, teachers and other community members to participate in together. Partners include Fayette County Schools and The Boy Scouts at The Summit Bethel Reserve.



PREVENTION

BREAKING THE CYCLE

Through a partnership with the Benedum Foundation, our team is developing the Breaking the Cycle program, which is focused on preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and their negative impacts by working with children, families, schools, and communities. As part of this initiative, our team is conducting a needs assessment which will be used to guide the development of a targeted evidence-based curriculum for a goal of 100 participating community members.

To date, the assessment has reached over 50 participants, most of whom have indicated substance use in the community and extended family raising children as two primary concerns.



**MADE POSSIBLE WITH
THE SUPPORT OF
THE BENEDUM
FOUNDATION**



AFTER SCHOOL

PRESTON COUNTY AFTER SCHOOL EXPLORERS

The EdVenture Group remains committed to our partnership with Preston County Schools. We provide support to the county's 21st Century Community Learning Center (21stCCLC) grant. In 2022, we provided consulting, professional development, and program support to After School Explorers (ASE) sites across Preston County. After returning from a year of fully remote after school programming, we helped sites use lessons learned to support student learning and enrichment across the 10 ASE sites. The longevity of The EdVenture Group's involvement with the program has allowed us to provide ongoing support to the new ASE Program Director.

WEST VIRGINIA AFTER SCHOOL STANDARDS REVISION

The West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network, WVDE-21stCCLC Program, and WV Department of Health and Human Resources enlisted the support of The EdVenture Group to facilitate the revision of the statewide after school quality standards. In 2022, we assisted with the identification of a taskforce, co-chairs, and workgroup members, and led the development of standards revisions among 10 topic specific workgroups.

Final revisions are underway and the project's core team expects to finalize and publish the revised standards in early 2023.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The EdVenture Group continues to grow as a leader in after school program consulting, support, and professional development. As such, several organizations, including the West Virginia Statewide After School Network (WVSAN) and Pennsylvania 21stCCLC program, have contracted with us for technical assistance and conference presentations.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

SIMULATED WORKPLACE LEADERSHIP SERIES

With funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission, our team hosted both in person and virtual leadership programming for select career and technical education (CTE) sites across West Virginia during the 22-23 academic year. The project takes place in a seven-county project region: Calhoun, Gilmer, Mingo, Nicholas, Roane, Summers, and Wyoming counties. The program incorporated live virtual workshops, a self-paced online learning module, a self-paced online resource in project management, and culminating leadership legacy project to be delivered in local communities.

"It allowed me to better understand how we can make a difference and make the community and world around us better."

2022 Student

NAILLER LEARN2LEAD

In July, The EdVenture Group led youth leadership workshops as part of the Monongalia County Schools' Summer Avalanche Program. Participating schools included South Middle School, Westwood Middle School, Suncrest Middle School, and Mountaineer Middle School with groups of students ranging from 12 to 25. Students engaged in discussion and hands-on leadership activities on leadership styles, leadership characteristics, core leadership functions, communication, and more, reaching over 50 students.





RESEARCH & EVALUATION

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

The West Virginia Department of Education recently awarded our team with a contract to evaluate the impact of their new Discover Your Future middle school career awareness curriculum. Data will be collected from all participating schools to examine students', school staff's, and caregivers' attitudes, knowledge, and comfort toward career exploration in middle school across a 5-year timespan through mixed-method research.

Curriculum addresses each of the 16 career clusters individually and provides resources.

A3L RECRUITMENT STUDY

In partnership with A3L Federal Works, The EdVenture Group supported a rigorous literature review and report briefing for the Department of Defense on Best Practices in Recruitment, Retention, and Placement of Underrepresented Communities in Defense STEM Sectors. The team helped review and consolidate over 20 years of research to develop a 100+ page final report and high-level briefing for key DoD personnel. The report will be utilized to set strategic priorities for DoD STEM programming.

The EdVenture Group maintains a strong working relationship with A3L Federal Works and continues to serve as a partner on the organization's IDIQ level contract with DoD. Promising future bids are expected within the space of STEM innovation and diversity, equity, and inclusion as a result of this partnership looking forward to FY2023.



"The presentation was absolutely fantastic, and it was evident by how satisfied our customer was."

Roya Maher, A3L



REL APPALACHIA

The EdVenture team provides leadership on a variety of projects in partnership with the Regional Education Laboratory Appalachia (REL-AP). Utilizing our expertise in training, professional development, coaching and consultation, and event planning, EdVenture supports the efforts of REL-AP in serving diverse rural communities in West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. This partnership enables our team to utilize and strengthen our existing relationship with the WVDE to expand and provide additional support across the REL-AP region and beyond.

Currently, our team is involved in the four following REL-AP projects:

Strengthening Math Learning In and Beyond the School

Through a series of coaching activities and workshops, the team builds capacity of middle school educators and school and district leaders in Logan County, WV to foster mathematical mindsets and develop an approach to engage diverse community partners and families as active supports for increased and enhanced math learning.

REL-AP Governing Board

Establishing, maintaining, and convening the REL-AP Governing Board via in-person meetings and logistics support



Need Sensing in West Virginia and Beyond

Need sensing in the REL-AP region, specifically focused on general need sensing across West Virginia

Kinship and Grandfamily Community of Practice

Through need sensing across the region, the team is launching this Community of Practice in 2023 to help schools strengthen supports for students whose families are experiencing or at risk of addiction, including but not limited to needs for supports for students who are placed in foster and kinship arrangements.

**OVER 20 YEARS OF
PARTNERSHIP WITH
REL APPALACHIA**

