

annual report

# the essentials

what really counts in improving education

**SREB**

Southern Regional Education Board

## About SREB

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Atlanta, Georgia, that works with 16 member states to improve pre-K-12 and higher education. SREB's many programs and initiatives share a single, powerful mission: to help the region lead the nation in educational progress. In the past year, SREB continued to work with states to meet the SREB *Challenge to Lead* Goals for Education, which call for higher achievement at every level of education.

## Member states

Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia

## the essentials: what really counts in improving education

In the past year, the nonprofit Southern Regional Education Board was essential in helping states improve education.

- **Advising state leaders on education policies and practices.** In tough economic times, SREB brought together governors, legislators, state K-12 and postsecondary leaders and others to advance education, and it published nationally recognized policy reports and valuable data on issues such as college-degree completion, student achievement, career/technical education and more.
- **Saving states money.** SREB programs such as the popular Academic Common Market and the Regional Contract Program for Health Professions allowed states to share specialized college programs, helped students pay less tuition — and provided important services to states.
- **Helping states upgrade school accountability systems and raise high school graduation rates.** SREB published *The Next Generation of School Accountability: A Blueprint for Raising High School Achievement and Graduation Rates in SREB States*, which states — including Texas and Kentucky — are using to map out major reforms, with SREB's help. SREB also updated states on their progress in *Gaining Ground on High School Graduation Rates in SREB States*.
- **Preparing more students for college and career training.** SREB worked directly with state leaders to help them begin to develop college- and career-readiness standards and stronger links between public K-12 schools and colleges — so that more students can pursue degrees and career training.
- **Improving schools.** *High Schools That Work* provided schools across the nation with high-quality, low-cost professional development and school improvement services. SREB also published the in-depth guide *Ready for Tomorrow: Six Proven Ideas to Graduate and Prepare More Students for College and 21st-Century Careers* and worked closely with states to improve school leadership.
- **Using technology and data to improve student learning.** SREB compiled and reported useful education data, updated the online *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education* and developed individual state reports. SREB also aided states as they expanded online courses.

**And much more.**



Working together,  
SREB and state leaders  
recognize that improving  
education is essential  
to reviving the economy  
and ensuring progress  
in the SREB region.



### **Joe Manchin III,**

West Virginia's 34th governor, was born and raised in the small coal-mining town of Farmington. He attended West Virginia University on a football scholarship. He was a state legislator from 1982 to 1996. As the secretary of state from 2000 to 2004, he oversaw the SHARES program, promoting democracy to school children and registering 42,000 high school students to vote. Since taking office as governor in 2005, he has been committed to creating a seamless education system that works for all West Virginians.

## **A Message from the SREB Chair**

I have enjoyed serving as the Chair of the Southern Regional Education Board. Along with my wife, Gayle, who also has been very active in SREB's work now for several years, we believe our involvement has reinforced in us how important it is for states to come together in order to make meaningful progress in education.

This summer, as my role is enhanced in the National Governors Association, I plan to continue SREB's agenda for improving college completion — my priority during my tenure as SREB Chair. While I will not be able to serve a second year as SREB Chair, I am excited to work with fellow governors to increase college retention and completion in the upcoming year.

Many of you who serve on the SREB Board attended our conference on this critical issue in Charleston, West Virginia, in April. National experts and state leaders shared their views for increasing the numbers of citizens who earn associate's and bachelor's degrees and career certifications in our states.

We must be proactive in ensuring that more high school graduates attend college or enroll in specialized career/technical training. Moreover, we must help more of them to finish the degrees and career certificates they start. It is vitally important also to address former students, of all ages, who left their institutions without graduating. It is a huge economic loss to our states when people do not finish these programs, whether because of rising costs, bureaucratic roadblocks and/or a lack of preparation in high school.

This summer, leaders from all SREB states will convene again in "Wild and Wonderful West Virginia" to review recommendations for raising the education levels of our states' residents, including:

- ensuring more high school graduates are ready for college and career training;
- ensuring that colleges and universities support student success;
- measuring degree completion and other indicators more accurately;
- streamlining college-transfer programs for students, and
- creating a clear, efficient path through college for students.

I am very proud of the work SREB is doing to address these issues. For more than 60 years, SREB has brought state leaders together to improve education. This organization continues to provide expert insight, data and cost-saving programs that benefit all of us.

This work is hardly finished. Together, we will continue to improve education opportunities for our residents and best practices for the entire nation.

Thank you for your committed support and participation.

## A Message from the SREB President

The past year has been challenging and busy for SREB. We have been productive in serving our states and have been heavily involved in many state, regional and national discussions on educational improvement.

SREB is about our 16 states and their education policy leaders. We have been so fortunate to have our states continue to support SREB even in these tough economic times and to continue to have the dedicated support of so many Board and Legislative Advisory Council members who have a special affinity for SREB.

This past year we lost one of education's and SREB's greatest advocates, former longtime legislator Jodie Mahony of Arkansas. Jodie's dedication and success in improving education for Arkansas crossed state boundaries and influenced all SREB states. We miss him and honor him in this report.

I want to thank Governor Joe Manchin III of West Virginia for chairing SREB over the past year. His leadership of SREB's college-completion initiative will benefit many thousands of students and their states. A special thank you also to Gayle Conelly Manchin, the First Lady of West Virginia, who has devoted much time and direction to SREB.

SREB states continue to lead the nation in educational improvement. If anything, our states' energy for such improvements has only increased. We know this because the call for SREB's services from the states has increased in the last several years, even as state economies have been challenged. We are committed not only to maintaining our core programs and services but also to expanding and adding to the several special initiatives we have begun over the last four years.

In addition to our work on high school reading; high school accountability, achievement and graduation; college and career readiness; and college completion and college transfer, we are launching new initiatives. One will help states improve middle grades education. The other is helping states develop stronger high school career-pathway programs, fused with a high-quality "ready" academic core curriculum that will prepare more students for various types of postsecondary education.

Since 1948, SREB states not only have risen to meet the challenges of improving education, but they have been leaders in doing so. Thank you for allowing SREB to be essential to you in these efforts.



**Dave Spence** became the president of the Southern Regional Education Board in 2005. He advises SREB Board members as they strive to improve pre-K-12 and postsecondary education. He is a nationally known advocate for improving high school students' readiness for college and career training and for increasing college completion in every state.

## *A Special Tribute:* Remembering Jodie Mahony



Courtesy of El Dorado News-Times

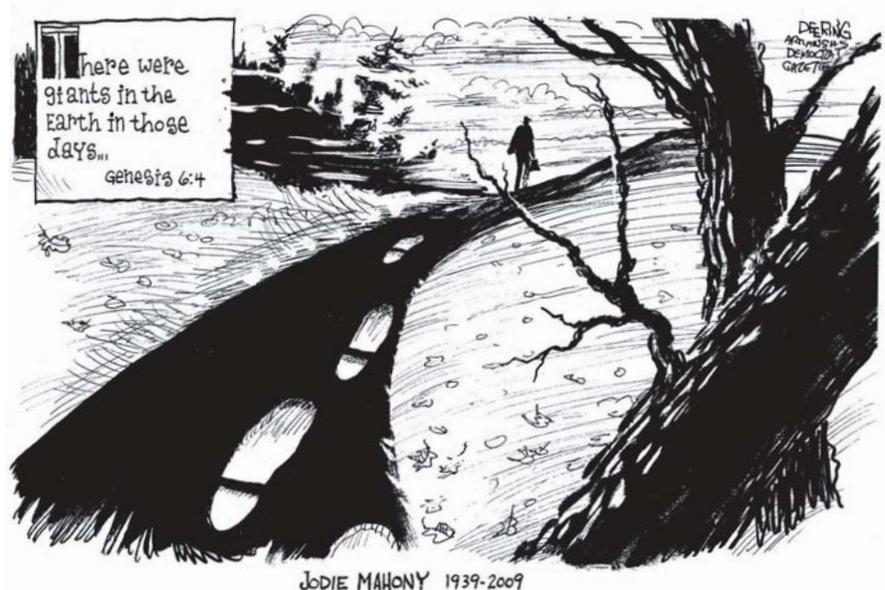
He made a great difference in improving education in Arkansas and the region.

Serving in the Arkansas Legislature for 36 years, the Honorable Jodie Mahony was deeply committed to SREB and its mission to help states work together to improve education. He represented Arkansas on the Southern Regional Education Board for more than 20 years — from 1984 through 2006 — including 13 years in leadership positions. He was a member of the SREB Legislative Advisory Council and developed lifelong friendships with legislators from around the region.

In all of these capacities, he worked tirelessly to raise the quality of education for the children of Arkansas — and citizens of all ages. His commitment to and participation in SREB's work reached every corner of the region. SREB, the South and the nation lost an icon in December 2009 when Jodie passed away.

For many years, Jodie was known for carrying a box of documents with him — often to help him make the case for a new education law or policy. His diligence and hard work were more than evident as he devoted his life to public service and kept the concerns of everyday people at heart.

He served his community, state and region with much intelligence and humor. He made a great difference in improving education in Arkansas and the region. He is greatly missed.



By John Deering: used with permission, © 2009 Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

## State Services

SREB's State Services office works with governors and state legislatures to provide the latest information on budgets, legislation and trends that affect education.

- Tracking legislative actions in the 16-state region and keeping tabs on actions across the nation were a full-time job in the past year, as state legislators and their staffs contacted SREB's State Services staff for up-to-the-moment updates on state decisions affecting public education. The **most requested information** included budget adjustments, federal Race to the Top requirements, teacher salaries, charter school regulations, and how states are handling state-sponsored programs such as scholarships.
- Eight *Legislative Reports* and the year-in-review *Legislative Briefing* kept lawmakers abreast of governors' proposals, key trends, bills and other actions regarding education as states wrestled with tight budget constraints and other challenges.
- *Focus* reports continued to inform thousands of state leaders on current topics such as the rising costs of college textbooks, state and local-level governance in K-12 education, and changes in the 180-day school calendar.
- The annual **Legislative Work Conference** and other meetings connected SREB's Legislative Advisory Council and other lawmakers from across the region. The Council guides SREB's work and makes the states' priorities and interests clear. Each year, regional and national experts consult with legislators on issues that matter so that future state actions get results.
- Legislative and executive branch staffs gathered for their annual meeting with SREB staff to discuss the latest in education research and trends.

### For more information:

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Legislators from across the region gathered at SREB's Legislative Work Conference to share ideas for improving education.



# Education Policies

Joan M. Lord, vice president: joan.lord@sreb.org



The Education Policies team kept leaders informed of states' progress on the SREB *Challenge to Lead* Goals for Education.

## Education Goals and Progress

The Education Policies team prepares reports on education issues that help state leaders develop strong policies and track their state's progress on the SREB *Challenge to Lead* Goals for Education.

- Researchers examine multiple sets of data, including student achievement and higher education data, to track the progress of all 16 member states at key points in the education pipeline.
- In the past year, Education Policies researchers studied **high school graduation rates** across the region and in a major report called for education leaders in SREB states to build on recent improvements and to make graduation rates a key part of school accountability systems.
- A recent major report, *Keeping Middle Grades Students on the Path to Success in High School*, focused on **middle grades achievement** and better preparation of ninth-graders for high school. Upcoming reports include ones on states' status on adult learning, Advanced Placement and dual enrollment participation, high school tests, higher education and teacher quality. In June 2010, the team will issue 16 in-depth progress reports — one for each member state — outlining highlights of each state's progress toward the goals.

### For more information:

Contact Jeff Gagne at [jeff.gagne@sreb.org](mailto:jeff.gagne@sreb.org).

## Go Alliance

Most SREB states participate in the *Go Alliance*, an interstate cooperative that develops and shares media campaigns that urge students to finish high school and go to college.

- The *Go Alliance's* annual meeting attracted representatives from across the region; its spring Workshop Series helped state officials plan and launch effective outreach and marketing campaigns over the past year.
- *Go Alliance* helped SREB states respond effectively to the noncompetitive, formula-based federal College Access Challenge Grant program. The *Go Alliance* provided a workshop to help develop their proposals.

### For more information:

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## SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program

The SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program is a nationally recognized leader in helping minority Ph.D. students earn their advanced degrees and encouraging them to become college faculty. The program recently celebrated its 500th graduate.

- More than one-third of America's college students are people of color, but **few college and university faculty are members of racial or ethnic minority groups**. The SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program works to change that.
- The program provides doctoral scholars (who are admitted on their own merits to participating colleges and universities) with professional development, mentoring and networking opportunities, employment counseling, financial assistance and other services. Institutions are able to share resources, offer professional development for faculty, and receive free job listings and faculty recruitment opportunities.
- **More than 500 scholars have earned their Ph.D.s** through the program, 80 percent of whom work in education — and more than 70 percent in SREB states. The Doctoral Scholars Program currently assists more than 330 scholars who are pursuing doctorates.
- For this work, the program received the prestigious **John Hope Franklin Award** in 2010 from *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine, joining such past recipients as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and poet Maya Angelou.
- In the past year, the program continued to support a Service Grant Award that encourages graduates to promote academic excellence among young people in their communities. The program also launched the Giving Back Campaign for graduates to make financial contributions toward greater services and support for scholars.
- In October 2009, SREB was the host of the 16th annual Compact for Faculty Diversity **Institute on Teaching and Mentoring**, the nation's largest gathering of minority Ph.D. scholars and faculty mentors. The Institute brought more than 1,000 participants together in Arlington, Virginia, for leadership training, networking, professional development and job recruiting.

### For more information:

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The Doctoral Scholars Program worked to increase the number of minority faculty at colleges and universities and celebrated its 500th graduate — a remarkable milestone.



# Education Policies



Working with the Cooperative, SREB states continued to lead the nation in providing state virtual or online schools.

## Educational Technology Cooperative

Through this program, SREB is a national leader in helping states expand and improve online learning — and make smart educational-technology policy decisions.

- In the past year, the Cooperative worked with more than three dozen state K-12 and postsecondary agencies in the 16 SREB states to help them capitalize on current technology, particularly focusing on digital content. The Cooperative's 2009 **annual meeting** in Charleston, South Carolina, brought together state officials and policy-makers to share ideas and hear from national experts on educational technology. The agencies in the Cooperative represent more than 3,300 school districts and nearly 800 colleges and universities in the region.
- SREB states continued to lead the nation in providing state virtual or online schools, working with the Cooperative on initiatives throughout the year. Member states now have **more than 250,000 K-12 enrollments in online courses** each academic year.
- In early 2010, the Cooperative launched the **SREB/iNACOL National Online Teacher of the Year Award** — in partnership with the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) — to recognize an outstanding online teacher for exceptional contributions to K-12 virtual education. The winner will be announced in September 2010.
- The Cooperative addressed common concerns about online learning in the publication *Overcoming Doubts About Online Learning*. It also published guidelines to help SREB states maximize the sharing of — and the return on investment from — their substantial digital learning content inventories, in the publication *An Expectation of Sharing: Guidelines for Effective Policies to Respect, Protect and Increase the Use of Digital Educational Resources*. The Cooperative expanded its annual **Report on State Virtual Schools** to include additional details and analysis.
- The Cooperative also continued to help provide **the SREB Online Teachers Web site** and professional development Webinars to share information and resources that improve virtual learning.

**For more information:**

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## Education Data Services

The Education Data Services team collects, analyzes and shares the latest available demographic, economic, pre-K-12 and higher education data to provide comparisons among SREB states and between the region and the nation. It also responds to special requests from state leaders and agencies and the press.

- The ***SREB Fact Book on Higher Education*** is one of the nation's most comprehensive collections of comparative education data. The interactive, online *Fact Book* with much supplemental information was updated continually in 2009-2010. The new print edition will be published in June 2011.
- The backbone of the *Fact Book* is the **SREB-State Data Exchange**, which compiles the **most detailed and up-to-date comparisons** of higher education data for the region. In December 2009, the team released the 2008-09 comprehensive report and *SREB Data Exchange Highlights*, showing where state universities, colleges and technical institutes stand on enrollment, degrees conferred, tuition and fees, and faculty compensation, as well as unique data on student persistence, graduation and progression, e-learning and the extent of college credits taken by high school students — including year-to-year changes. New, unique data on time-to-award and credits-to-award are being collected and will be released in fall 2010.
- In addition, state leaders received two ***Fact Book Bulletins***. *New Data Reveal Percent of College Credits Taken by High School Students* (March 2010) outlines the latest information about public post-secondary education courses taken by high school students in SREB states. *A Paradox of Education Progress* (May 2010) examines the region's status in increasing the number and percentage of adults with bachelor's degrees in a time of changing demographics.

The SREB-State Data Exchange compiled the latest higher education data for the region.



### For more information:

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# State College- and Career-Readiness Initiative



SREB is working with six states to accelerate their progress in improving high school students' college and career readiness.

SREB is working directly with states to plan and implement statewide policies to significantly **improve high school students' readiness for college and career training** — so that more of them can complete degrees or career certificates and be better prepared for the work force.

- With a major grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, SREB is working with six states — **Kentucky, Florida, Maryland, Texas, Virginia** and **West Virginia** — to accelerate progress in college and career readiness. The Initiative is helping state leaders and policy-makers improve students' readiness in essential academic subjects and navigate the complexities involved in addressing the problem. SREB brought officials from each participating state together in December 2009, allowing them to share their progress and best practices.
- SREB continued to work with states to plan for **implementation of its model agenda** for improving students' college and career readiness, which calls for each state to take five actions:
  - Adopt statewide college- and career-readiness standards in reading, writing and math that are created jointly by public pre-K-12 and higher education sectors.
  - Make college- and career-readiness standards key components of state high school assessments and statewide higher education placement/readiness assessments.
  - Make school and student performance on the readiness assessments part of the state school accountability program.
  - Adjust or develop curriculum and instruction to target the specific statewide readiness standards.
  - Develop statewide plans for targeted professional development to help teachers understand the specific readiness standards and how to use them effectively.

SREB is helping states re-examine their pre- and in-service **training for teachers** to help teachers begin to use state college- and career-readiness standards in their instruction. SREB also is assisting states with development of senior-year transitional courses so that more students meet the standards before they leave high school.

## For more information:

Contact Cheryl Blanco at [cheryl.blanco@sreb.org](mailto:cheryl.blanco@sreb.org).

## Improving College-Degree Completion

An ambitious SREB initiative is working to help states stay economically competitive by substantially **increasing the number of students who complete two- and four-year college degrees and career certificates** annually — and creating efficiencies that will allow institutions to serve more students.

- SREB staff consulted in the past year with state leaders and other nationally prominent policy organizations and foundations to push for greater interest in improving degree completion, helping to **build national consensus** on how to address the issue. An additional goal of this work is to increase states' degree-completion productivity and then redirect cost savings to help close achievement gaps for under-represented populations and to serve the growing numbers of students entering postsecondary education.
- The project published in March 2010 the **major SREB report** *Promoting a Culture of Student Success: How Colleges and Universities Are Improving Degree Completion*. It examines strategies that 15 public colleges and universities across the nation are using to help more students earn bachelor's degrees — especially students with academic and/or economic disadvantages. It has already attracted attention from institutions, policy organizations and news media.
- In partnership with Governor Joe Manchin III and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, SREB held a **regional conference on improving degree completion** in April 2010. State leaders, higher education officials, institutional leaders and national experts discussed how to address the issue.
- The project has prepared a final draft of a potentially historic **set of recommendations** for improving degree completion that the full SREB Board will review and consider in late June 2010 at the SREB Annual Meeting in West Virginia.
- A more in-depth companion report on the role of state and system-wide policies in improving degree completion will be published in late 2010.

### For more information:

Contact Cheryl Blanco at [cheryl.blanco@sreb.org](mailto:cheryl.blanco@sreb.org).

The project published a major report examining how 15 institutions are helping more students earn bachelor's degrees.



## High Schools That Work

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*High Schools That Work* worked to help raise student achievement in more than 1,200 high schools.

*High Schools That Work (HSTW)* provided professional development for thousands of educators and direct services to more than 1,200 public high schools in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

- Working with many states' education agencies, *HSTW* uses 10 Key Practices to help schools **blend career/technical studies with rigorous academics** and use data to improve achievement — transforming high schools into places where *all* students learn at high levels.
- *HSTW* held four **national workshops and a leadership series** for some 540 educators, and more than 20 **custom workshops** for more than 1,000 educators. The 23rd Annual ***HSTW* Summer Staff Development Conference** in July 2009 drew more than 7,000 educators to Atlanta from 40 states and Canada. The 2010 conference will be in Louisville, Kentucky.
- In 2009, *HSTW* launched four new series of Webinars for educators. These eight-session series focused on improving literacy across the curriculum and math achievement in high schools and the middle grades. More than 130 schools from 12 states participated. The success of these Webinars led *HSTW* to develop a total of 10 in-depth series for the coming year.
- The **annual *HSTW* Leaders' Forum** brought more than 75 state leaders and legislators together in Savannah, Georgia, in November 2009 to discuss how to realize the potential of career/technical studies to improve achievement, graduation rates, and students' college and career preparation.
- More than 46,500 students from 757 high schools and 111 technology centers participated in the **2010 *HSTW* Assessment**. It helps schools monitor students' achievement and school experiences, so that more students are ready for college and careers.
- *HSTW* published many useful reports on education policy and practice.

**For more information:**

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## Partnerships with States

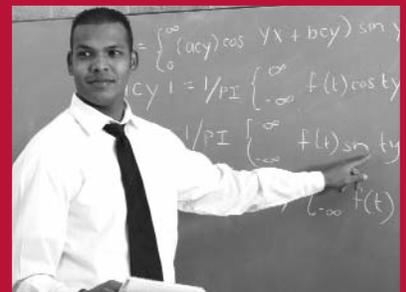
*High Schools That Work (HSTW)* partners with state education agencies to create networks of schools that learn from each other, hold conferences for educators, and work systemically to improve student achievement and graduation rates.

- In the 2009-2010 school year, *HSTW* **partnered with five SREB states' departments of education** to help improve achievement, graduation rates, and students' readiness for college and career training in about 160 schools.
- In **Alabama**, SREB helped 22 high schools, 26 middle grades schools and eight technology centers use SREB's improvement frameworks and also held workshops for educators on guidance and advisement, standards-based units, increasing academic rigor and more.
- In **Florida**, SREB worked with the state's school improvement coaches in 12 high schools and 17 middle grades schools to provide professional development on guidance and advisement, creating a culture of high expectations and implementing literacy-improvement plans. This partnership emphasizes training for current and aspiring school leaders to ensure that principals can be stronger instructional leaders.
- The **Louisiana** partnership includes 12 high schools and 10 middle grades schools. SREB provided them with on-site coaching, leadership training for 125 school leaders, and professional development for more than 200 teachers in 10 statewide workshops.
- SREB held many workshops to help teams of teachers and school and district leaders develop school improvement plans using the *HSTW* framework. SREB provided on-site coaching and workshops to 48 **Texas** schools.
- In 2010, SREB began work in five high schools and three middle grades schools in **Virginia**, including on-site coaching, professional development on improving instruction for more than 100 teachers, and leadership training for 46 school leaders.

### For more information:

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States work with *HSTW* to improve student achievement, school leadership and more.



## High Schools That Work

### Making Middle Grades Work

Helping ensure that middle grades students are well-prepared for high school is the mission of this SREB school improvement program.

- More U.S. students are retained in the ninth grade than in any other. That's just one reason why *Making Middle Grades Work (MMGW)* focused in the past year on increasing the number of schools it serves with research-based improvement services to improve students' readiness for rigorous ninth-grade courses. **MMGW's network grew** to nearly 500 schools in 22 states, including 12 SREB states — an increase of more than 50 schools from the previous year.
- A record-setting 21,000-plus eighth-grade students participated in the **2010 Middle Grades Assessment**. The test helps schools compare student achievement data with students' reported experiences and monitor progress in preparing more students for rigorous high school studies.
- The program held **more than 50 workshops for educators**, honing in on critical issues identified by *MMGW* during Technical Assistance Visits (TAVs) and the 2008 Middle Grades Assessment. *MMGW* staff increased the level of coaching provided to school, district and state leaders in areas of need, including alignment of assignments and assessments to grade-level standards, using standards-based grading practices and high-quality rubrics, and creating and supporting a culture of success in the middle grades that prepares more students for rigorous and challenging high school courses. Staff also provided Webinars and on-site training in six states on rigor, engaging assignments and standards-based grading practices.
- In addition to leading **29 TAVs and 10 Site Development Workshops** for new sites, *MMGW* staff made plans to conduct critical data workshops to help school leaders in many SREB states analyze their 2010 Middle Grades Assessment data and develop action plans based on the results.



*MMGW's* school improvement network grew to nearly 500 schools in the past year.

**For more information:**

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## *Technology Centers That Work*

*Technology Centers That Work (TCTW)* helps strengthen the curriculum at career/technology centers so graduates can succeed in postsecondary studies and in high-demand, high-wage fields.

- Created just three years ago, *TCTW* helps shared-time career/technology centers understand their role in helping students to be successful, in both careers and postsecondary studies. *TCTW* also works with high schools to ensure that career/technical students participate in **a coherent program of study that includes rigor in both academic and career/technical courses.**
- The *TCTW* network has grown to **more than 125 sites** in 11 states. *TCTW* provided its member schools with strategies for embedding literacy and numeracy strategies into career/technical courses. SREB school improvement consultants also provided follow-up visits to career/technology centers to observe classroom practices and to work with educators on instructional improvements.
- *TCTW* conducted **16 Technical Assistance Visits** in schools, 12 state-wide Site Development Workshops, 13 workshops and Webinars on the use of data to improve school culture, and additional professional development activities. Four national Webinars provided shared-time centers with strategies for creating small learning communities and establishing a school culture that does not allow failure as an option.
- The second annual national ***TCTW* Forum** was held in Jacksonville, Florida, in early 2010. Nearly 175 participants from career/technology centers discussed crucial issues facing their schools. The 2011 Forum will be held in Charleston, South Carolina.

### **For more information:**

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*TCTW* helped more than 125 career/technology centers improve students' readiness for college and careers.



## High Schools That Work



A new benchmark study will help SREB states improve school leadership policies.

### Learning-Centered Leadership Program

The SREB Learning-Centered Leadership Program works with states, universities and school districts to improve training for public K-12 school leaders across the region. Research shows that stronger school principals can improve teacher effectiveness and student learning.

In the past year, the program helped states improve university-based preparation programs, licensure, professional development and evaluation for school leaders.

- Among the highlights, the program advised Louisiana, Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee, Ohio and Florida on their work to **redesign school leadership preparation and professional development** programs. Several other states and school districts also used the program's services.
- Staff conducted the **SREB school leadership benchmark study**, including the design and execution of a regional survey that assessed SREB states' adoption and implementation of improved school leadership policies. The results of the study were shared with policy-makers in each SREB state and will be published in late 2010.
- The program convened leaders from 22 states and Canada for the annual **Leadership Forum** in May 2010 — with an emphasis on building collaborations between states, colleges, universities and school districts to prepare a new generation of school leaders. Officials from each state spent time at the Forum crafting plans to improve school leadership.
- The team provided **SREB Leadership Curriculum Module training** to 656 workshop leaders from 30 states and began development of online courses and technical services to help educators more easily access SREB leadership training.
- The program **partnered with the U.S. Department of Education and the Florida Department of Education to prepare more school leaders** to increase student achievement. SREB worked with six districts and a cohort of new leaders, provided professional development and coaching for leaders in 25 schools, and developed an academy model for training skilled school leaders.

#### For more information:

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## *Preparation for Tomorrow* — Joining a College-Ready Academic Core with Intellectually Demanding Career/Technical Courses

SREB formed its newest initiative, *Preparation for Tomorrow*, in 2009. This **12-state consortium** will develop curricula, assessments, instructional materials and teacher/counselor training to provide more students with relevant and challenging career/technical (CT) courses. The goal is to create a self-supporting initiative in the first five years and to expand the project over the next five years to provide more than 250,000 students with relevant and challenging CT studies that result in **improved student achievement, graduation rates, and readiness for college and careers.**

Each of the 12 participating states will design a sequence of four CT courses with embedded college- and career-readiness in a high-demand, high-wage field that is important to the state's economy. All participating states will have access to the 12 curricula, which will lead students to several options beyond high school, including an entry-level job, advanced training, industry certification, a two-year college certificate or associate's degree, and a bachelor's degree.

- To date, SREB has committed \$1 million to begin the initiative and has applied for funding from the U.S. Department of Education's Investing in Innovation Fund, established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- Twelve states have formally agreed to invest at least \$200,000 each to support the **engagement of key stakeholders** from industry, higher education, government agencies and secondary education to develop the four CT courses, as well as related instructional and training materials and assessments.
- Each state has selected a **strategic career area** in which it will develop a non-duplicative, four-course program aligned with the current and future work force needs of the state.

### For more information:

Contact Dick Blais at [dick.blais@sreb.org](mailto:dick.blais@sreb.org) or  
Gene Bottoms at [gene.bottoms@sreb.org](mailto:gene.bottoms@sreb.org).

This new initiative will  
provide students with  
more challenging  
career/technical courses.



## High Schools That Work



*HSTW* and *MMGW* worked to improve student learning by contracting directly with 143 high schools and 97 middle grades schools in 11 SREB states.

### Transitions from the Middle Grades to High School, and from High School to Postsecondary Studies and Careers

SREB's school improvement programs continue to improve critical educational transitions for students.

- SREB works with school districts and state education agencies on **professional development and coaching** that assist schools in improving students' transition into high school. A set of planning tools for educators, based on the SREB report *Redesigning the Ninth-Grade Experience*, is online.
- In July 2010, the **Transitions Institute** will be held during the annual *HSTW* Summer Staff Development Conference. It serves educators whose schools are designing and using standards-based courses to accelerate learning for — not to remediate — struggling ninth-graders. It also helps educators better prepare high school seniors for postsecondary studies. About 85 educators attended the 2009 Institute in Atlanta.
- In the 2009-2010 school year, SREB provided coaching for educators in Alabama, Florida and Louisiana in implementing ninth-grade redesign action plans.

#### For more information:

Contact Janie Smith at [janiewsmithsreb@bellsouth.net](mailto:janiewsmithsreb@bellsouth.net).

### Direct Services to Districts and Schools

*HSTW*, *TCTW* and *MMGW* also contract directly with **individual districts and schools** to provide professional development, on-site technical assistance and other services.

- In 2009-2010, *HSTW* and *MMGW* worked to improve student learning by contracting directly with 143 high schools and 97 middle grades schools in 11 SREB states. The programs served another 76 high schools and 12 middle grades schools outside the region.
- In 2009, 12 of the 14 middle grades schools that SREB serves in Clayton County, Georgia, met Adequate Yearly Progress requirements under the *No Child Left Behind Act*, compared with just four schools three years ago.

#### For more information:

Contact Rhenida Rennie at [rhenida.rennie@sreb.org](mailto:rhenida.rennie@sreb.org).

## Project Lead The Way ®

In its final year, SREB's partnership with the nonprofit Project Lead The Way® Inc. (PLTW Inc.) continued to increase the number and diversity of students preparing for college in **engineering, science and technology**.

- The partnership provided engineering-related courses to 1,063 middle grades and high schools and biomedical science programs to 92 high schools in SREB states in 2009-2010. It also trained teachers for each course and provided end-of-course assessments and course designs that embed academic skills into career/technical courses.
- Its engineering and biomedical sciences curricula used project- and problem-based learning to help students connect academic knowledge and technical skills. SREB and PLTW Inc. also developed recruitment materials to help schools attract more girls into engineering.

### For more information:

Contact Carolyn Helm at [carolyn.helm@sreb.org](mailto:carolyn.helm@sreb.org).

## High Schools That Work Urban Network

The Urban Network works with leaders in large urban schools and districts to improve instruction and provide professional development.

- In the past year, consultants helped **add rigor to classroom instruction**. Schools concentrated on redesigning the ninth grade so that more students meet college- and career-readiness standards and graduate from high school. The Network also helped teachers improve their instructional planning and classroom practices — and trained more CT teachers to embed literacy and math into their courses.
- In **New Orleans**, high school and middle grades teachers worked to **improve students' reading comprehension** in each subject. The Network collaborated with instructional coaches to improve teachers' instructional practices.
- In **Baltimore**, the Network helped educators develop a plan to help schools use teaming strategies to encourage all school employees to identify school challenges and provide leadership on implementing solutions that lead to higher student achievement.

### For more information:

Contact Kenneth Mason at [kenneth.mason@sreb.org](mailto:kenneth.mason@sreb.org).

The Network helped schools redesign the ninth grade so more students will stay in high school and graduate.



## Student Access Programs and Services



SAPS gives students greater online access to postsecondary courses and much more.

Increasing access to college and improving degree completion and graduation rates are key missions of Student Access Programs and Services (SAPS). SAPS' goal is simple: to give students in SREB states greater access to postsecondary education — wherever, however and whenever they wish. SAPS includes two extremely popular and longstanding SREB programs, the **Regional Contract Program** for Health Professions and the **Academic Common Market**, both online at [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org). SAPS also manages important online programs such as the *Electronic Campus* — a useful catalog of online college courses, degree programs and services — and **theTeacherCenter.org**, the **Distance Learning Policy Laboratory**, and tools and information on improving opportunities for adult learners.

- In the past year, SAPS focused much of its work on adult learners, especially the Center for Adult Learning in Louisiana, or **CALL initiative**, a joint project of SREB and the Louisiana Board of Regents. CALL helps working adults take accelerated online college courses at their own convenience — and provides college credit for prior education, work and life experiences — to help more people complete an associate's or bachelor's degree. Soon, more than 300 adults will have earned degrees from the three-year-old program.
- The SAPS team has consulted with other states and institutions as they have developed similar programs to CALL, including those in Kentucky (Project Graduate), Oklahoma (Reach Higher), Tennessee (Complete College TN Act) — and, most recently, West Virginia (RBA Today), a program that will launch in 2010.
- Through funding from Lumina Foundation for Education, SAPS is conducting a **national study** that will assess student information portals (Web sites). The final report will provide data on what portals are doing, what features are common and how portals might be better utilized in the future.

**For more information:**

Contact Bruce Chaloux at [bruce.chaloux@sreb.org](mailto:bruce.chaloux@sreb.org).

## Electronic Campus

One of the nation's leading online learning programs, SREB's *Electronic Campus* offered Web access to more than 300 colleges and universities in SREB states in the past year. The program provided access to **more than 30,000** undergraduate and graduate courses and 1,000 degree programs, plus online services such as applications, campus tours and scholarship opportunities.

- The SREB-State Teacher Center (**TheTeacherCenter.org**) offered online resources for the million-plus educators in SREB states, giving current and aspiring teachers “anytime, anywhere” access to online professional development and information on licensure, certification, financial aid and more.

## Academic Common Market

The cost of college is an issue for many students. SREB's Academic Common Market (ACM) enables a student to enroll in an undergraduate or graduate program in another SREB state at **in-state tuition rates**, when the program is unavailable in his or her home state. The ACM helps states optimize their enrollments in these programs and meet their residents' needs.

- More than 2,000 degree programs (709 undergraduate and 1,343 graduate) were available through the ACM in 2010. Nearly 2,500 students participated, and the ACM page remains the most visited on the SREB Web site.

## Regional Contract Program for Health Professions

States cannot offer degree programs in every possible academic area. But one of SREB's oldest programs, the Regional Contract Program for Health Professions, fills this gap. SREB states share first-professional degree programs across borders in medicine, optometry, podiatry, veterinary medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry and other fields.

- **States save the cost** of having their own programs and gain more professionals in these specialized fields. Students pay in-state or reduced tuition rates. In 2009-2010, 760 students participated in the program. All but one SREB state (Maryland) participated by providing programs or contracting for spaces in the programs.

### For more information:

Contact Mary Larson at [mary.larson@sreb.org](mailto:mary.larson@sreb.org).

Two SREB programs  
help reduce tuition costs  
for college students.



# Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing



The Council works to supply more nurse educators to teach aspiring registered nurses.

The Council helps expand and strengthen schools of nursing at colleges and universities through projects, conferences and an initiative for online learning.

- During the past year, the Council continued to support the **SREB Nurse Educator Consortium**, a collaboration with SREB's *Electronic Campus* and eight graduate programs to increase online access to teacher preparation courses for graduate students and clinicians interested in **teaching the next generation of registered nurses**.
- The Council's 2009 annual survey of collegiate nursing education programs documented important trends and data — showing 390 faculty vacancies, 122 retirements and 46 deans/directors who plan to retire in three years.
- Deans and faculty members attended the Council's **Annual Meeting** in October 2009. Its theme, "Faculty Workload: A Fresh Look at an Ongoing Issue," addressed a key issue for nurse educators. The 2010 meeting will focus on several major reports and recommendations by the Carnegie Foundation and the Institute of Medicine.
- The Council's **Leadership Development Initiative** helps enhance the skills of the next generation of academic leaders in nursing. The University of South Florida and Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center will begin a series of leadership development activities in July 2010. Faculty from these institutions recently participated in a train-the-trainer session offered at the Center for the Health Professions, University of California, San Francisco.
- The Technology Committee plans to research and recommend strategies on the use of technology in nursing education.
- The Workforce Diversity Committee is collecting "success stories" on the efforts of nurse educators to sustain a diverse work force in the region.

## For more information:

Contact Eula Aiken at [eula.aiken@sreb.org](mailto:eula.aiken@sreb.org).

# Communications

The Communications office promotes SREB's key messages and priorities for improving education in its member states via nationally recognized publications and through print, broadcast, Web-based and new media.

- In the past year, Communications managed the redesign and launch of the **improved SREB Web site, [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org)**, strengthening its presence as a leading source of information on education policy and practice. The site includes a growing number of audio and video features.
- Communications continued to work closely with many SREB staff members on editing, design, publishing and distribution of many of the organization's extensive print and online **publications and products**. Plans are under way to offer selected SREB publications via mobile downloads and e-reader devices. The office also helped SREB senior leaders to promote important education issues in the region.
- The office expanded SREB's presence in new media. **Follow us on Facebook and twitter** — and join a wider scope of education policy experts, young professionals, journalists and others who are interested in education.
- **Media relations** continued to be strong. In the past 12 months, the office distributed more than 25 SREB press releases — each reaching more than 1,000 education reporters and editorial page editors across the region and the nation. Communications worked daily with the news media to provide information, connect them with SREB experts, and ensure that SREB and its member states influence and are part of news coverage of education issues in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Education Week*, National Public Radio and major newspapers in SREB states.

## For more information:

Contact Alan Richard at [alan.richard@sreb.org](mailto:alan.richard@sreb.org)  
or Lisa Johnston at [lisa.johnston@sreb.org](mailto:lisa.johnston@sreb.org).

SREB's improved Web site  
makes it easier for  
state leaders and the  
public to find the  
information they need.



# Members of the Board

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Mark E. Emblidge, Director, The Literacy Institute, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia, *Vice Chair*

Senator Jack Gordon, Mississippi, *Treasurer*

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	Bob Riley, <i>Governor</i>	2011
† *	H. Mac Gipson Jr., <i>State Representative</i>	2013
	Joseph B. Morton, <i>State Superintendent of Education</i>	2012
	Caroline Novak, <i>President, A+ Education Foundation</i>	2010
	Sandra Sims-deGraffenried, Huntsville	2011

## Arkansas

	Mike Beebe, <i>Governor</i>	2011
	Lawrence A. Davis Jr., <i>Chancellor, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff</i>	2011
†	Joyce Elliott, <i>State Senator</i>	2012
	Johnnie Roebuck, <i>State Representative</i>	2013
	Naccaman G. Williams, <i>Chair, State Board of Education; Senior Program Officer, The Walton Family Foundation</i>	2010

## Delaware

	Jack Markell, <i>Governor</i>	2013
	Lillian Lowery, <i>Secretary of Education</i>	2013
	Robert W. Rescigno, <i>Vision Network Liaison, Vision 2015</i>	2011
	Patrick E. Savini, <i>Superintendent, Sussex Technical School District</i>	2012
†	David P. Sokola, <i>State Senator</i>	2010

## Florida

	Charlie Crist, <i>Governor</i>	2011
	Nancy C. Detert, <i>State Senator</i>	2010
	Frances Haithcock, <i>Chancellor of Public Schools, Florida Department of Education</i>	2012
† *	Joe H. Pickens, <i>President, St. Johns River Community College</i>	2011
	Eric Smith, <i>Commissioner of Education</i>	2009

## Georgia

	Sonny Perdue, <i>Governor</i>	2011
	Erroll B. Davis Jr., <i>Chancellor, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia</i>	2011
† *	Jack Hill, <i>State Senator</i>	2010
	Jennifer Rippner, <i>Senior Policy Advisor, EducationCounsel LLC</i>	2013
	E. Steve Smith, <i>Superintendent, Lowndes County Schools</i>	2012

## Kentucky

	Steve Beshear, <i>Governor</i>	2011
	Wayne D. Andrews, <i>President, Morehead State University</i>	2012
† *	Joseph U. Meyer, <i>Acting Secretary, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet</i>	2013
	Timothy T. Shaughnessy, <i>State Senator</i>	2010
	Kenneth W. Winters, <i>State Senator</i>	2011

## Louisiana

†	Bobby Jindal, <i>Governor</i>	2012
	Sally Clausen, <i>Commissioner of Higher Education, Louisiana Board of Regents</i>	2010
	Micheal "Randy" Moffett, <i>President, University of Louisiana System</i>	2012
	Paul G. Pastorek, <i>State Superintendent of Education</i>	2011
† *	Francis C. Thompson, <i>State Senator</i>	2013

## Maryland

	Martin O'Malley, <i>Governor</i>	2011
	Nancy S. Grasmick, <i>State Superintendent of Schools</i>	2010
† *	Henry B. Heller, <i>State Delegate</i>	2011
	William E. Kirwan, <i>Chancellor, University System of Maryland</i>	2012
	James E. Lyons Sr., <i>Secretary of Higher Education</i>	2009

† *Executive Committee member* — The Executive Committee has full power to act between Board meetings.

\* *Finance Committee member* — The Finance Committee, a subcommittee of the Executive Committee, prepares an annual budget and presents it and other financial policy matters to the Executive Committee.

## Mississippi

Haley Barbour, <i>Governor</i>	2012
Reginald P. Barnes, Horn Lake	2010
Hank M. Bounds, <i>Commissioner of Higher Education</i> , Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning	2011
† * Jack Gordon, <i>State Senator</i>	2012
Charles L. Harrison, <i>Educational Consultant</i> , The Excellence Group	2013

## North Carolina

† Beverly Perdue, <i>Governor</i>	2013
Walter H. Dalton, <i>Lieutenant Governor</i>	2012
† * Howard N. Lee, <i>Executive Director</i> , North Carolina Education Cabinet	2011
Cathy Tomon, <i>Principal</i> , Broad Creek Middle School	2010
Douglas Y. Yongue, <i>State Representative</i>	2013

## Oklahoma

Brad Henry, <i>Governor</i>	2011
Nelda Jo Kirk, <i>Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration</i> , Office of the Governor	2012
Kara Gae Neal, <i>Superintendent/CEO</i> , Tulsa Technology Center	2013
Susan Paddack, <i>State Senator</i>	2010
† * M. Susan Savage, <i>Secretary of State</i>	2011

## South Carolina

Mark Sanford, <i>Governor</i>	2011
Nikki G. Setzler, <i>State Senator</i>	2005
† * Ronald P. Townsend, <i>Education Associate Liaison for High Schools That Work</i> , Career and Technology Center, Williamston	2007
Mitchell M. Zais, <i>President</i> , Newberry College	2012

## Tennessee

Phil Bredesen, <i>Governor</i>	2011
Stephen A. Cobb, Nashville	2007
Lois M. DeBerry, <i>Speaker Pro Tempore of the House</i>	2010
Shirley C. Raines, <i>President</i> , University of Memphis	2013
† * Andy Womack, Murfreesboro	2008

## Texas

Rick Perry, <i>Governor</i>	2011
† * Rob Eissler, <i>State Representative</i>	2012
Geanie W. Morrison, <i>State Representative</i>	2011
Robert P. Scott, <i>Commissioner of Education</i>	2010
† Florence Shapiro, <i>State Senator</i>	2013

## Virginia

Robert F. McDonnell, <i>Governor</i>	2014
† * Mark E. Emblidge, <i>Director and Affiliate Professor</i> , The Literacy Institute, Virginia Commonwealth University	2012
Steve F. Kime, Clifton	2013
Henry G. Rhone, <i>Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services</i> , Virginia Commonwealth University	2011

## West Virginia

† Joe Manchin III, <i>Governor</i>	2012
Thomas W. Campbell, <i>State Delegate</i>	2013
Brian Noland, <i>Chancellor</i> , West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission	2012
† * Robert H. Plymale, <i>State Senator</i>	2010
Roman W. Prezioso Jr., <i>State Senator</i>	2011

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