

West Virginia and The Southern Regional Education Board

This document details West Virginia's participation in SREB programs and services from June 2014 through May 2015. Each member state receives a number of general services, plus access to targeted programs funded by grants, contracts and fees. Appropriations from member states support SREB's core operations and general services. SREB leverages the long-standing commitment of member states to attract external funding for an array of targeted projects for educational improvement efforts in member states.

Leadership

SREB Board

Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor

Thomas W. Campbell, Member, West Virginia State Board of Education

Paul Hill, Chancellor, Higher Education Policy Commission

Robert H. Plymale, State Senator; 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 SREB Treasurer

Roman W. Prezioso Jr., State Senator

SREB Legislative Advisory Council

Robert H. Plymale, State Senator, Huntington

Roman W. Prezioso Jr., State Senator, Fairmont

Senator Prezioso is the sixth longest-serving member of the Council, since 1995.

Policy

Goals for education | Monitoring state policies

Monitoring, measuring and reporting through comparative and state-specific reports to assist education leaders and policymakers as they shape public policy in education. SREB tracks trends and analyzes the progress of all 16 SREB states in each area in the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education and provides Legislative Reports that detail legislative and budget actions in each state.

West Virginia information is included in all reports, as applicable, and several are targeted specifically for West Virginia. 2014 reports:

West Virginia: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

2014 State Progress Report on the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education

High School to College and Careers, 2014

The ACT and SAT: No Longer Just College Admission Tests

SREB States Transform School Accountability with NCLB Waivers, 2014

Workforce Development in SREB States: The Role of Two-Year Colleges in Preparing Students for Middle-Skill Jobs

Focus on Compulsory Attendance Policies: About Age or Intervention?

Notes on School Finance: Selected Information on Funding for Low-Income Students in SREB States

Legislative Reports and Legislative Briefing

More information: Joan.Lord@SREB.org or Jeff.Gagne@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

College and career readiness

Intensive work to help states implement essential components of SREB's recommendations for statewide college and career readiness.

1. Adopt statewide readiness standards for literacy and mathematics skills.
2. Assess high school juniors to determine their progress toward the standards.
3. Offer transitional readiness courses. Require juniors assessed as underprepared to take the courses in 11th or 12th grade.
4. Apply the standards in deciding whether students need learning support after admission to college.
5. Hold schools accountable for increasing postsecondary readiness.

West Virginia has made good progress in implementing all the recommendations and is one of eight SREB states that have passed legislation supporting them. SREB staff have worked directly with legislators and staff, as well as education policymakers, on steps in the recommendations.

SREB is assisting West Virginia in its review of K-12 standards in literacy and mathematics.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Readiness

Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards

Tracks and reports state progress on how states are implementing college- and career-readiness standards.

SREB launched a new phase of benchmarking in February 2015. In this work, SREB tracks and will report on implementation of standards and related reforms in **all 16 SREB** states.

Publications

In January 2015, SREB published ***Benchmarking State Implementation of College-and Career-Readiness Standards, Aligned Assessments and Related Reforms***. Six reports make up the set covering 14 states: a cross-state findings report that describes trends across the states — plus five reports with detailed state profiles by topic.

The reports note West Virginia as a ***strong state*** for aligned teaching resources.

Support for States

In August 2014, SREB convened leaders from eight SREB states, including a team from West Virginia, and national experts in Atlanta to share information about and resources for implementation of college- and career-readiness standards.

SREB's benchmarking staff provided information and support to state leaders on the implementation of standards and related reforms during fall 2014 and winter 2015.

Benchmarking staff presented on implementation of college- and career-readiness standards to:

- SREB Board and Legislative Advisory Council members, including attendees from West Virginia, at SREB's 2014 Annual Meeting.
- Legislative and governors' staff, including attendees from West Virginia, in October 2014.

More information: Kim.Anderson@SREB.org | (404) 775-9366 | SREB.org/1600

English Learners

Conference on preparing English language learners for college and career, co-hosted in May 2014 by SREB, the National Council on La Raza and the Hunt Institute.

West Virginia sent a team to the conference, and a **fact sheet for West Virginia**, includes population trends; state and federal policies; and programs, standards and assessments for English learners

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1785

Educator effectiveness

Helps states create policies that support teacher effectiveness so students learn more in the classroom. SREB staff work with policymakers and state agencies in all member states to help them translate current research on what works into evaluation systems that create an environment where teaching improves.

SREB educator effectiveness staff met with representatives from the West Virginia Department of Education who attended the State Consortium on Educator Effectiveness meeting held by the Council of Chief State School Officers in Atlanta in April 2015.

Staff facilitated several breakout sessions during the March 2015 Advisory Meeting for the SREB Benchmarking State Implementation of College and Career Readiness Standards project.

Representatives from West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia engaged with SREB staff during a webinar on equitable access to excellent teachers, sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Education laboratory in March 2015.

SREB staff traveled to Charleston to meet with West Virginia Department of Education staff responsible for educator evaluation in February 2015.

Representatives from the West Virginia Department of Education shared their experience building and implementing educator evaluation systems and networked with other SREB state representatives at **SREB's annual educator effectiveness convening** in Atlanta in February 2015. They also attended a presentation by SREB staff during the Equitable Access to Excellent Teachers and Leaders meeting in San Diego in February 2015.

The educator effectiveness team refreshed the **educator effectiveness Bill Tracker** in January 2015, which allows West Virginia policymakers to track bills across eight topics including teacher preparation, evaluation and professional learning.

Staff presented on educator evaluation at SREB's Legislative Advisory Council meeting in December 2014.

Staff provided general technical assistance at an Education Counsel event on state teacher equity plans on November 18.

Representatives from West Virginia attended the Meeting of Legislative and Governors' Staff in October. Staff updated the 40 attendees on recent changes to **teacher evaluation systems** in SREB states.

The team released the **Elements of Evaluation interactive database** in October 2014, which allows West Virginia policymakers to explore policies across 16 states on classroom observations, student growth measures and professional learning systems.

Staff provided expertise to the West Virginia officials who attended the Benchmarking State Implementation of College and Career Readiness Standards meeting in August 2014.

Throughout the year, staff provided technical assistance to **West Virginia Department of Education** staff who are leading the implementation of the state's new educator evaluation system.

More than 1,000 policymakers and practitioners across the 16 SREB states receive the bi-weekly educator effectiveness newsletter.

The SREB educator effectiveness team provided technical assistance, brokered expertise, and provided policy and practice resources to West Virginia:

- SREB Board and LAC members
- State legislators and legislative staff
- Governor's staff
- State education agency staff
- District superintendents
- School principals
- Teachers

More information: Andy.Baxter@SREB.org | (704) 247-7497 | SREB.org/EE

Early childhood education

SREB Early Childhood Commission

Convenes leaders to recommend policies that will give more young children a solid start when they enter school. The Commission's focus is on access to high-quality programs and the importance of highly skilled teachers to young children's learning experiences. The Commission will present draft recommendations for the SREB Board to consider in summer 2015, and will publish its report later in 2015.

West Virginia members of the Commission:

David Perry, State Delegate

More information: Mark.Emblidge@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EarlyLearning

Career and technical education

SREB Commission on Career and Technical Education

Explored how optional career pathway programs of study can help more students acquire the academic and technical knowledge and skills needed to earn industry and postsecondary credentials and degrees to secure high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs.

The Commission's final report, *Credentials for All: An Imperative for SREB States*, offers states policies and practices to build high-quality career pathways that transform their educational systems, increase postsecondary credential and degree attainment, and ensure their future economic security.

West Virginia members of the Commission:

Lloyd Jackson, Board Member, Board of Education

Robert H. Plymale, State Senator

More information: Gene.Bottoms@sreb.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CTECommission

Postsecondary education

Two commissions carried SREB's completion initiative into the states in 2014 and 2015 with strong emphasis on readiness and pathways for community colleges and affordability for all students. Building on the success of 2011-14 regional working groups of legislators to vet issues and craft recommendations, both commissions included Board and Legislative Advisory Council members and other key policymakers in the states.

SREB Community College Commission

Charged with recommending statewide strategies to strengthen the role of community and technical colleges in raising educational attainment in Southern states.

West Virginia members of the Commission:

Thomas Campbell, Board Member, West Virginia Board of Education

Jim Skidmore, Chancellor, West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CommunityColleges

SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South

Charged with recommending postsecondary policies that lead with the need for affordability and adjust institutional appropriations, student aid and tuition policies accordingly.

West Virginia member of the Commission:

Paul Hill, Chancellor, Higher Education Policy Commission

Robert H. Plymale, State Senator

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Affordability

State Services

Connects policymakers with custom information, presentations and assistance on education issues as they arise.

Staff visited West Virginia to meet with legislators and staff and attend committee meetings in February 2015.

Custom information by request of West Virginia policymakers and staff:

Legislator: state standards

Legislator: school finance

Legislators: charter schools

More information: Gale.Gaines@SREB.org | (404) 879-5582 | SREB.org/StateServices

Professional Development for Teachers, Principals and Counselors

Literacy Design Collaborative and Mathematics Design Collaborative

SREB partnered with the West Virginia Department of Education to implement literacy and mathematics strategies known as the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) and the Mathematics Design Collaborative (MDC) to schools throughout the state.

Literacy Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students learn the literacy skills of college- and career-readiness standards. Teachers learn to design assignments that engage students to learn subject content while advancing reading and writing skills. SREB's innovative training starts with exemplary teachers, who then work with other teachers to help them adopt the strategies.

West Virginia teacher experts trained by SREB in 2014-15: **83**

Number of West Virginia schools: **32**

Mathematics Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students understand basic mathematics concepts, become fluent with mathematics procedures, and develop the reasoning to apply them to solve problems. MDC teachers use formative assessment lessons — a hybrid of assessment and instruction — to help students master college- and career-readiness standards. SREB's innovative training builds the capacity of lead teachers to become trainers of other teachers.

West Virginia teacher experts trained by SREB: **67**

Number of West Virginia schools: **34**

The **West Virginia Regional Education Service Agency in Clarksburg** is featured for its Mathematics Design Collaboration implementation in a September 2014 SREB publication of vignettes, *Students Step Up When Teachers and Leaders Transform Classrooms*.

More information: Dan.Mollette@SREB.org | (404) 962-9623 | SREB.org/LDCMDC

Teaching to Lead

SREB helps states redesign programs that prepare business professionals to become career and technical education (CTE) teachers through non-traditional certification routes. SREB's Teaching to Lead program provides new CTE teachers knowledge and skills to manage a classroom of diverse students; plan challenging, work-related assignments that will improve students' academic, technical and problem-solving skills; motivate students to complete assignments; and assess student progress.

West Virginia teachers who participated in the professional development in 2014-15: **44**

During the 2013-14 school year, **West Virginia University Institute of Technology** piloted the program. Based on pilot results, the program has been redefined to include 26 days (200 hours) of sustained professional development, which SREB supported during 2014-15. Twenty-six days of professional development were provided for 30 new CTE teachers, starting with 10 days in August 2014 and four sessions in October, December, March and April. Teachers who complete the professional development will receive 12 hours of college credit (undergraduate or graduate) to complete the permit process for a five-year certification.

More information: Nancy.Headrick@SREB.org | (573) 680-0476

High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference

Annual conference for thousands of school leaders, teachers and counselors from middle grades, high schools and technology centers across the country. The July 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta.

West Virginia attendees at the July 2014 conference: **249**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/SummerConference

College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference

Conference on the proven strategies of the Literacy and Mathematics Design Collaborative frameworks. More than 1,200 teachers and leaders attended the first conference in July 2014 to collaborate and share effective instructional strategies. This year's conference will be held in Atlanta, July 13-15.

West Virginia attendees at the July 2014 networking conference: **49**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/NetworkingConference

National Professional Development Workshops

Intensive two- to three-day workshops that address current priorities for school improvement. Attendees leave with a plan of action for their schools. During the 2014-15 school year, SREB offered the Aligning High Schools and Middle Grades With Emerging Priorities for College and Career Readiness workshop and the National Technology Centers That Work Leaders' Forum.

West Virginia teachers, counselors and leaders who participated: **17**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/PD

Principals

Learning-Centered Leadership Program

Works with district, state and university partners to prepare aspiring principals and school leadership teams to lead school reform to ensure that students are ready for college and careers. This program offers training, guidance and technical assistance.

In September and October 2014, SREB trained a group of **24 trainers** on its Coaching for School Improvement leadership module. This training was delivered in partnership with the **West Virginia Center for Professional Development**. Those trained on the module began re-delivering the training to school leaders through the state in late 2014.

West Virginia attendees at 2015 Annual SREB Leadership Forum: **2**

More information: Jon.Schmidt-Davis@SREB.org | (404) 879-5591 | SREB.org/Leadership

High School and Middle Grades Improvement

SREB Readiness Courses Math Ready and Literacy Ready

Ready for postsecondary study

SREB courses that teach the reading, writing and mathematics skills young adults must have to succeed in college study and the workplace after high school — how to think independently, read for information and solve problems. Developed by teams of educators and faculty from partner states around the nation, they are being field tested in several states and are available at no cost.

West Virginia joined the consortium of states in 2013, after development of the readiness courses was completed. The state currently teaches transitional courses it developed before adopting its current standards.

Teachers from about 50 schools participated in a statewide training for SREB Literacy Ready and Math Ready courses in Charleston in July 2014. Sixteen West Virginia high schools participated in the 2014-15 field-test of the SREB Readiness Courses. West Virginia worked with SREB to implement the SREB Readiness Courses **statewide in the 2014-15 school year**. West Virginia plans to **require the courses statewide in 2015-16**.

Ready for high school

SREB is now working with states to develop courses for the transition from middle grades to high school. The courses will be available for underprepared eighth- and ninth-grade students starting in 2016-17.

Middle grades and high school teachers from **West Virginia** are participating in the development of the new courses.

More information: John.Squires@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Ready

Advanced Career

A new approach to career and technical education that combines college-ready academic content with a sequence of four courses designed around hands-on, project-based assignments. The aim is to prepare more students for as many career options as possible in emerging high-demand, high-wage fields such as health informatics and energy and power.

As a member of the Advanced Career (AC) consortium, West Virginia worked with SREB and local higher education and economic development leaders to develop the **energy and power** pathway, which will be offered in 10 West Virginia schools in 2015.

West Virginia was a leader, through Governor Tomblin and the Legislature, as the first state to provide dedicated state funding for adopting AC programs. The goal is to have at least one AC program in every career and technical education and comprehensive high school.

Work is also underway to align high school AC programs with related community and technical college offerings to create seamless career pathways with multiple education options for students after high school. **Blue Ridge Community and Technical College** will serve five to six high schools with the AC integrated production technologies program.

West Virginia's 2014-15 participation:

End-of-course assessments for AC courses: **22 schools**

Summer Teacher Training Institute: **7 teachers**

AC Steering Committee meetings: **2 representatives**

The March 2015 *Advanced Career News* spotlighted the energy and power curriculum.

West Virginia teachers and schools are featured in vignettes on the energy and power AC courses at SREB.org/AC.

"The Motors Are Humming in an Energy and Power Course in West Virginia."

— David Wright, Teacher, **Jefferson High School, Shenandoah Junction**

"Energy and Power Projects: A Springboard Into Real Life"

— Jeff Broschart, Teacher, **Randolph Technical Center, Elkins**

"Students Get a 'Lift' From a Hydraulics Project"

— Dustin Cogar, Teacher, **Lewis County High School, Weston**

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 8759211 | SREB.org/AC

High Schools That Work

Helps states transform public high schools into places where all students learn at high levels and complete at higher rates. Reforms create career pathway roadmaps for college and career readiness to meet regional and state workforce needs. HSTW serves more than 1,350 schools in 30 states. Schools receive services through membership in the HSTW state network or through contracts for intensive, customized support.

The **West Virginia Department of Education**, in collaboration with SREB, revived and refocused the High Schools That Work initiative in the state, resulting in **26 schools** focused on improving mathematics and literacy skills, counseling for careers and graduating all students college and career ready. The work continued into the fall, and a second cohort of teachers from targeted schools and technical centers began in September 2014. This work has been supported by SREB Literacy Design Collaborative and Mathematics Design Collaborative trainers working with 11 coaches to provide sustained professional development and on-site coaching for 75 teacher-facilitators.

SREB staff members are also conducting a statewide needs assessment of West Virginia's CTE programs. The assessment will determine how well technology centers and comprehensive high schools are focused on a mission of preparing students for both further study and work, and will determine the level of collaboration with community and technical colleges.

HSTW State Network

Member states select schools to receive services. The fee for state membership in the consortium covers several services and visits.

West Virginia is a member of the High Schools That Work state network, in which **26 schools** were active in 2014-15. Four additional schools join in 2015-16.

Kathy D'Antoni, Assistant State Superintendent of Schools, Division of Technical, Adult and Institutional Education, West Virginia Department of Education, serves on the HSTW Board.

Ron Grimes, West Virginia Department of Education, is the HSTW State Coordinator.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

HSTW Assessment

Subject tests, along with student and teacher surveys to establish baseline data, track progress and identify areas for improvement.

26 West Virginia schools participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment.

Special Board Meeting

High Schools That Work held a special board meeting in March devoted to strengthening the HSTW instructional design to build college and career pathways that link high schools, workplace learning and community and technical colleges.

West Virginia participant in the March 2015 HSTW Board meeting:
Stan Hopkins, West Virginia Department of Education

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Making Middle Grades Work

Engages state, district and school leaders in partnerships with teachers, students, parents and the community to raise student achievement in the middle grades. The network includes 663 schools in 20 states.

SREB conducted site development workshops, technical assistance visits and leadership coaching at **Andrew Jackson Middle School in Charleston** in 2014-15.

More information: Deborah.Bass@SREB.org | (404) 788-1235 | SREB.org/MMGW

Technology Centers That Work

Helps shared-time centers produce high-demand, high-wage graduates. SREB provides staff development, technical assistance, publications and assessment services. The network includes almost 200 sites in 18 states.

In West Virginia in 2014-15, **18 centers** are active members of the TCTW network. SREB delivered 28 days of on-site coaching and four days of on-site staff development. **Fourteen centers** participated in the HSTW Assessment. Five additional schools join the network for 2015-16.

Twenty-two teachers at 14 TCTW sites are enhancing the quality of CTE offerings through professional development and coaching on rigorous project assignments that embed college- and career-readiness standards. Teachers will also be trained to use the Literacy Design Collaborative and Mathematics Design Collaborative instructional tools in the CTE classrooms and labs. Plans are to scale this effort to all CTE centers statewide. Each center in the state is hiring an English and mathematics teacher to improve the literacy and math skills of CTE students.

More information: Lynda.Jackson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/TCTW

Counseling for Careers

Helps students align career pathway programs of study to career goals, postsecondary studies and employment. SREB works with districts and schools so that teachers, counselors, administrators, parents and community partners can advise students on career opportunities in the state and region, career pathway programs of study, work-based learning experiences, postsecondary education and training opportunities.

Since summer of 2014, **35 West Virginia school districts** and **over 150 educators** have received professional development. Ten pilot high schools received customized professional development in all seven Counseling for Careers essential strategies, with plans to implement this professional development school wide in 2015-2016.

2014 Award-Winning Schools and Centers

HSTW Platinum High Achievement Schools participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment and had at least 85 percent of students meet at least one readiness goal, one or more parts of the recommended curriculum, and at least one recommended concentration. Schools are classified as a high implementation site and met state AYP or had a graduation rate of at least 85 percent. The following school earned the award in 2014:

Frankfort High School, Ridgeley

TCTW Platinum High Achievement Centers participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment, were classified as high implementation sites, had at least 75 percent of students meet at least one readiness goal and one or more parts of the recommended curriculum and had at least 45 percent of students experience an intensive emphasis on quality career and technical education studies. The following center earned the award in 2014:

Mineral County Technical Center, Keyser

TCTW Gold Readiness Centers participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment and had at least 65 percent of students meet one or more readiness goal and one or more parts of the recommended curriculum. At least 40 percent of students experienced an intensive emphasis on quality career and technical education studies.

The following center earned the award in 2014:

Caperton Center, Parkersburg

More information: Fran.Cowart@SREB.org | (404) 879-5611

Higher Education Programs and Services

Tuition savings, access to uncommon degrees

Academic Common Market

Provides in-state tuition access to degree programs not available in a student's home state. Approximately 2,500 new students participate each year in 1,900 programs at 150 institutions.

Participating West Virginia students, calendar year 2014: **73**

West Virginia ACM Representative:

Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Council for Community and Technical College Education

A West Virginia representative attended the 2015 Academic Common Market annual meeting webinar.

Electronic Campus

Partners with colleges and universities to give students access to almost 37,000 online courses and more than 3,400 online degree programs.

Programs provided to EC by West Virginia institutions as of April 2015: **23**

West Virginia EC Representative:

Roxann Humbert, Statewide Director of Higher Education e-Learning, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Council for Community and Technical College Education

A West Virginia representative attended the 2014 Electronic Campus Annual Meeting.

Regional Contract Program

Gives students the opportunity to earn a professional health degree from participating institutions in other states through in-state tuition rates at public institutions or reduced tuition at private institutions. SREB is fiscal agent and handles administrative duties without additional fees to the state, institutions or students. More than 700 students participate each year.

Through the Regional Contract Program, residents of West Virginia can enroll in health programs to which they otherwise may not have access. In 2014-15, **11 West Virginia students** participated in the program.

RCP Representative:

Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Council for Community and Technical College Education

SREB Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement

*Allows institutions to be authorized by their home state to eliminate the need for individual approvals in SREB states where they serve students online. SREB states opt in to SECRRRA. A new, nationwide system of reciprocity — SARA, or the **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement** — will open more high-quality online offerings for students and ease regulatory burdens on institutions.*

West Virginia was **one of the first three SREB states approved** as a member of SARA, in October 2014. West Virginia will have a representative on the SREB SARA Steering Committee.

West Virginia participates in SECRRRA.

West Virginia SARA Representative:

Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Council for Community and Technical College Education

More information: Mary.Larson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1083

Comparative data

SREB-State Data Exchange

Collects, compiles and publishes data and descriptive statistics on postsecondary education. Data are updated annually on a wide range of policy topics: degree and certificate completion, student persistence and progression, time- and credits-to-degree, student credit hours (including those taken in high school), tuition and fee levels and policies, and faculty salaries. Postsecondary agencies in each SREB state participate and appoint coordinators.

Participating agencies and 2015-16 Data Exchange Coordinators:

Jeannie Reed, Senior Institutional Research Analyst, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
Sherri Nash, Coordinator, CTE Accountability and Support, Division of Technical and Adult Education, West Virginia Department of Education

SREB Fact Book on Higher Education

One of the nation's most comprehensive collections of comparative data. The Fact Book keeps policymakers informed with trend data for all 50 states on the population and the economy, college enrollment, degrees awarded, tuition and fees, student financial aid and cost of attendance, faculty and administrators, as well as revenue and expenditures including state appropriations. Fact Book tables are updated regularly at SREB.org/Data.

West Virginia leaders receive the annual **SREB-State Data Exchange Indicators Report**, the **SREB Fact Book on Higher Education**, as well as **West Virginia: Featured Facts from the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education**, **Fact Book Bulletins** and special reports.

More information: Susan.Lounsbury@SREB.org | (404) 879-5546 | SREB.org/Data

Nursing education

Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

Helps expand and strengthen schools of nursing to reduce the critical shortage of nurse educators needed to educate the nation's registered nurses. The Council surveys institutions for nursing education trends and shares online graduate nursing courses.

In West Virginia, **two institutions** participate in the Council

Representatives from each institution, with leadership positions on the Council:

Marshall University, Denise Landry, Department Chair; Bylaws Committee

West Virginia University: Tara Hulsey, Dean

More information: Eula.Aiken@SREB.org | (404) 879-5567 | SREB.org/Nursing

Minority Ph.D. scholars

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program

Supports minority students to help them earn their Ph.D.s and seek employment that helps colleges and universities diversify their faculties. The Doctoral Scholars Program hosts the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the nation's largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars — with more than 1,200 attendees.

Scholars funded by West Virginia in 2014-15: **10**

2014 Institute attendees from West Virginia: **20**

Scholars West Virginia has supported since joining in 1995: **56**

Graduates since 1995: **27**

Graduates currently employed: **25**

Percent employed in education: **68**

West Virginia-supported doctoral students have attended these institutions since 1995:

Marshall University

University of Oregon

Ohio University

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

University of Kentucky

West Virginia University

University of Maryland-Baltimore County

Regional Advisory Committee Representative:

Daniel Crockett, Director of Student and Educational Services,

West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

More information: Ansley.Abraham@SREB.org | (404) 879-5573 | SREB.org/DoctoralScholars

Interstate Cooperatives

Educational Technology Cooperative

Membership group of state K-12 and higher education coordinating and governing boards representing more than 800 colleges and universities and 3,100 school districts in SREB states. The ETC focuses member agencies and state policymakers on using technology wisely, reports on educational technology topics and connects members.

West Virginia member agencies and representatives for the membership year 2014-15:

West Virginia Department of Education: Rebecca Butler, Assistant Director, Office of Instructional Technology

West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission: Roxann Humbert, Statewide Director of Higher Education e-Learning

West Virginia sent attendees to the 2014 annual meeting, and West Virginia's ETC representatives helped determine SREB's **10 Critical Issues in Educational Technology**. Rebecca Butler serves on the ETC Executive Committee to guide the ETC in leveraging technologies for the benefit of students, instructional staff and support staff.

More information: Wanda.Barker@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EdTech

Technology Purchasing Savings

Schools, universities and agencies in SREB states saved 3 percent to 18 percent on \$17 million in technology purchases during fiscal year 2014 through SREB's participation in MHECtech discount agreements. Organizations in each of the 16 SREB states participated.

West Virginia technology purchases, FY 2014: **\$40,600**

More information: Camille.Martin@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1697

Go Alliance

An interstate cooperative to increase high school graduation rates, access to education beyond high school, and postsecondary degree completion — particularly for those who would be the first in their families to enroll. Go Alliance research, services and professional development focus on college access policy and communications strategies to motivate students to plan for and apply to college.

West Virginia participates in Go Alliance.

Go Alliance Representative:

Adam Green, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

"The training and networking opportunities that SREB's Go Alliance provides

are valuable resources to our communications and outreach staff. Go Alliance fills a niche in offering professional development in marketing and communications strategies — subjects that are represented only sparsely at other education conferences and seminars.

Go Alliance annual meeting and spring workshops also give us insight into innovative practices; spur new ideas and collaborations; and assist us in replicating successful interventions piloted in other states. We particularly appreciate the spirit of collegiality that Go Alliance fosters among SREB member states.”

— Adam Green, **West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission**

More information: AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org | (404) 879-5601 | SREB.org/GoAlliance

The Southern Regional Education Board was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators who recognized the link between education and economic vitality. To this day, the organization maintains its focus on critical issues that hold the promise of improving quality of life by advancing public education. The region’s track record shows that setting goals and maintaining the commitment to work toward them make a difference.