

October 24, 2024

Larry Mazza
MVB Banking, Inc.
1000 Jerry Dove Drive
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Dear Larry:

RE: CAPERTON CENTER 2024 UPDATE

Through your generous financial contribution to the Caperton Center for School-Business Partnerships in 2022, you were part of a collective effort to revitalize school-business partnerships. In 2023, the Education Alliance conducted a “listening tour” to determine the areas of need, and we convened a “Regional Partnership Council” comprised of education, economic development, and community leaders to help guide the Center’s action.

Throughout 2024, the Caperton Center for School Business Partnerships' work has accelerated tremendously. I am pleased to update you that we officially launched the Caperton Center Hub for School Business Partnerships this month. The hub (EducationAlliance.org/Caperton) is a “one-stop-shop” where schools and businesses can access:

- **Registry**—Partners must complete a simple, 5-minute registration of their partnerships and gain access to a searchable tool that enables them to see what other partnerships are doing across West Virginia.
- **Resources**—Download a personalized partnership certificate to display in their office and access a robust Toolkit with resources for measuring, strengthening, and growing their partnership.
- **Recognition**—In December, we will launch the Partnership of the Year Award with \$25,000 in awards to shine a spotlight on the great work of successful partnerships (stay tuned for this exciting celebration of Regional Partnership winners and a State Partnership winner).

Under the leadership of the Alliance’s Robert Crawford, we recently piloted these resources with 11 schools across the state and enlisted a web designer to incorporate their edits and feedback. Throughout the past month, we have made great strides to get the word out across the state, meeting with more than 500 leaders, including the WV Board of Education, WV Economic Development Council, and WV Association of School Administrators. Our goal is to have at least one partnership registered in all 55 counties by December.

Once again – we need your help.

- If you know of a business or school already engaged in a local school partnership, please encourage them to complete this easy, 5-minute registration process on our website. (EducationAlliance.org/Caperton)

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- If you know of a speaking opportunity, please help “open doors” for us to promote the Caperton Center resources.
- Please let us know if you want to serve as a regional judge for the Partnership of the Year recognition.

Your continued support will help students like Andrew benefit from partnership opportunities. *“I have learned so much from my healthcare internship. My friends tell me I have grown in confidence just by putting myself out there in this experience. My hospital mentor helped stretch my empathy for my patients and showed me what it’s like to be supportive and kind, even in difficult situations” (Andrew, 11th-grade student).*

We are excited to begin this next phase of the Caperton Center and would welcome your feedback and participation in the Regional Partnership Council. Please let us know if you can assist in the areas above or have other ideas or suggestions. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss them. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Again, thank you for all you do for West Virginia's students. Together, we can change the future.

Sincerely,



Amelia Courts, Ed.D
President/CEO



Sally Barton
Vice President