

RESAs lead the way in Professional Development

are searching for the educational development that enhanc- -long venture and education does not end when a degree es the learning experience for students of all ages, they turn has been granted." to their local Regional Education Service Agency. Annual-

training sessions year-round that have a ripple effect into schools and communities,

whether they're located along an interstate or a winding back road.

By giving the West Virginia workforce the best, most up-to-date knowledge to do their jobs, area workforces are able to provide services that keep schools, cities, towns, counties and the state as a whole running effectively.

"We're providing an invaluable service to our educa-RESA 5 Staff Development



tors and public service profes- Third grade teachers from Lewisburg Elementary at sionals," said Dave Scragg, the Greenbrier County Summer Teachers' Academy

When West Virginia teachers and school administrators Director. "Each RESA holds the belief that learning is a life

Teachers of all subjects are given the opportunity to ly, each of the state's eight RESAs provides thousands of stay abreast of advances that will better educate their stu-

> dents with ideas for classroom differentiated management, instruction, adolescent literacv and various other training topics. Thousands of educators are taking the knowledge that they have learned at RESAsponsored seminars and created a better environment for students and their parents.

FALL 2010

While classrooms are being influenced by the training, the overall county school systems are also reaping the benefits of professional development provided by RESA. School administrators, county administrators, support staff and board See Lead, Page 4

Commitment to cost savings and the environment

but in Cabell, Lincoln, Wayne and staff within their respective school Mason Counties, all served by Region- districts to educate and facilitate eneral Education Service Agency 2, those gy saving plans. costs are decreasing and saving taxpayers millions. It's all happening be- perform the imperative duties of being cause of the RESA 2 Energy Conser- great stewards of the taxpayers' dolvation Program, which has goals of lars and the environment," said Chip cutting utility costs through the use of McMillian, Cabell County Schools green initiatives.

Each county employs an energy

Energy bills continue to increase, manager, who works with faculty and

"This vital program enables us to energy manager.

See Commitment, Page 6

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Expanding the knowledge of educators, administrators

evolve, and RESA 4 is making sure entiated Instruction, Foldables, Morn- all counties in RESA 4." said Charles thousands of educators in its counties ing Meeting and Classroom Manage- Callison, Greenbrier County Schools are moving with the trends and staying ment. Teachers created models of three Assistant Superintendent. ahead of the curve throughout the year -dimensional by accessing RESA professional devel- which blend social, emotional and aca- sional development doesn't stop when opment courses. Between July 1 and demic learning each day; educators the classes end. Evaluations to appraise Sept. 8 alone, RESA 4 has provided 65 also learned how they can utilize rules, program effectiveness will follow. separate training opportunities, which consisted to create an effective classroom enviof 81 sessions with a total of 1,157 ronment. Each educational method participants.

courses we provide each year give educators and administrators knowledge they seek in order to im- sity Increasing Teacher Quality grants prove their schools and districts," said to improve the subject knowledge of RESA 4 Executive Director Dr. Gus 80 teachers. These educators have been Penix. "All of the positive comments immersed in research-based instrucnoted by professional development tional strategies, inquired-based curricparticipants reinforce the importance ulum and technology integration. of these classes."

fessional development classes, and training. RESA 4 organized the Sum-RESA 4 responded. Before school be- mer Administrators' Institute, which gan in August, RESA 4's Technical hosted 69 participants. Among the ses-Assistance Group provided profession- sions for administrators were updates

The education system continues to al development sessions about Differ- of providing services to our county and graphic organizers, professional development procedures, rewards and consequences responds to the needs of individual "The professional development students to ensure maximum growth.

RESA 4 used its Mathematics Scithe ence Partnership and Marshall Univer-

Classroom educators aren't the on-Educators requested specific pro- ly school system employees receiving



RESA 4 Summer Administrators Institute

on common core standards, certification issues, legal issues, and the programs and services available to schools and districts from RESA 4.

"RESA 4 does an outstanding job

RESA 4's commitment to profes-

Providing students, parents with innovative programs yield positive results

When the U.S. Department of Education called for the establishment of community learning centers, Regional Education Services Agency-RESA 1 answered. The effects of RESA 1's Project Challenge 21st Century Learning Center have gone beyond expectations.

During the previous school year, RESA 1 implemented an after-school Project Challenge 21st Century Community Learning Center at Beckley-Stratton Middle School in Raleigh County. The Beckley-Stratton Middle School center was open to students in grades 6 through 8. Through Project Challenge, provided with federal 21st Century Learning Center funding, Summers County provided a comprehensive summer program, which was open to students in kindergarten through 11th grade throughout Summers County. Both locations targeted students who are at risk for lower academic achievement.

"The response and outcome of the first year of Project Challenge 21st Century Community Learning Centers is a reminder of the importance of our commitment to the cities and counties we serve," RESA 1 Executive Director Keith Butcher See Results, Page 8

Teachers recognized for going beyond the call of duty

a verb or how to solve a complex cal- School technology education teacher Regional Education Services Agency 7 Erin Leidl. wants to once again recognize the educators who go the extra mile and in- gram is not a contest, but instead a way teacher taught in a unique way, unconspire their students and fellow profes- to show our communities how educa- ventional instruction methods or a spesionals.

the inauguration of the RESA 7 Teach- Gabe Devono said. "I encourage any- should also include the teacher's name, er Recognition Program, three educa- one who knows of an outstanding school, position, grade level(s) taught tors were honored for their efforts to- teacher to submit their name and a nar- and total years in the classroom. A ward making learning an experience to rative so that their efforts can be photo of the teacher is also required. remember: Lewis County High School known to the communities we serve. Nominations are accepted on an ongohealth and health care fundamentals We're looking forward to receiving ing basis.

Whether it's explaining how to use teacher Brenda Ellyson, South Middle nominations again this year."

tors go above and beyond for their stu- cial event he or she planned that had a

Those submitting a nomination are culus problem, teachers do something Jeremy Bartholow and South Middle asked to include a story that explains special in their classrooms each day. School English/language arts teacher why the teacher they have chosen stands out in the education system. "The Teacher Recognition Pro- Narratives can describe a lesson the During the 2009-2010 school year, dents," RESA 7 Executive Director positive effect on students. The story



Erin Leidl South Middle School Monongalia County



Brenda Ellyson Lewis County High School Lewis County



Jeremv Bartholow South Middle School Monongalia County

Environmental Training Center the Cedar Lakes becomes easy to understand its imtoasts 25 years of service

For 25 years, the Regional Educa- The EPA's \$500,000 grant constructed Environmental Training quired training opportunities for pro- operators from across the state. fessionals in water and waste water management. Throughout RESA 5's center has trained more than 15,000 vironmental Trainer though the Naquarter-century support of WVETC, cities and towns across the tration fees that are, on average, 75 to Health state have been able to supply custom- 85 percent less than general industry (NESHTA); and in 2009, received the ers with the best water quality possible rates. It's estimated that the classes NESHTA George A. Kinias Service and ensure public health.

1983 under the administration of the year. West Virginia Department of Educacome to fruition. Nichols said.

tion Service Agency 5 West Virginia and equipped the complex that pro- rector Richard Weigand. He holds a Center vides training and continuing educa- master's degree in environmental sci-(WVETC) has offered low-cost, re- tion for waste water and water plant ence and has served on the National

the water and sewage operators with regis- tional Environmental save participating West Virginia cities Award. The WVETC was established in and towns more than \$500,000 each

tion. Grant funding from the U.S. En- mation professionals take away from ly, the WVETC hosts between 300 and vironmental Protection Agency ena- classes provided by the Environmental 500 students each year in the bled the WVETC facility, located at Training Center and the cost savings, it

Conference Cen- portance to everyone in West Virginter, near Ripley, to ia," RESA 5 Executive Director Ron

At the helm of the WVETC is Di-Board of Certification for more than 15 During the years of operation, the years. Weigand is also a Certified En-Safety and Association Training

Certification classes at the WVETC include seven levels in waste water and "When one considers the infor- five levels in drinking water. Typical-

See WVETC, Page 5

Lead: From Page 1

of education members are receiving training on topics that range from school transformation strategies to project based learning, technology integration instruction and the West Virginia Education Information System, which ensures standardized data collection and reporting to the West Virginia Department of Education. Specialized focus is given to providing training and support to low performing schools and to several other state agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Resources.

"The professional development RESA sponsors and coordinates each year is not only beneficial to our school districts and teachers through what they learn, but also because the sessions are provided in the most cost effective way," commented Linda Ballard-Price, RESA 1 Staff Development Director. "RESA's professional development opportunities are saving counties and agencies thousands of dollars annually."

Public service providers, including firefighters and emergency medi-HAZMAT training and stay current on what they need to know to take care of the public. Even miners and chemical plant operators receive pro-RESA.

"When one considers the vast provides and the number of individufor nearly everyone in West Virginia," said Marsha Bailes, RESA 4 Staff Development Director. "We're tradition of educating those who serve the state."

RESA's professional developthe workforce each year.

RESA shares the vision

Service Agency in the state shared in- this invaluable program." formation that could become invaluable.

On Aug. 21, RESA volunteers arrived at Wal-Mart and Gabriel Brothers stores across the state to educate the public about the AmberVision program. The efforts of more than 100 RESA volunteers educated parents of schoolaged children about how AmberVision uses an up-to-date school photo of their child and basic information to expedite a missing child's return to his or her home.

"We all hope that the information AmberVision provides to law enforcement will never have to be used," said law enforcement means a missing child and promotional efforts.

Just before West Virginia students can be found as soon as possible. We're loaded their backpacks and boarded the very pleased that RESA volunteers and buses for another school year, volun- area residents stopped at Wal-Mart or teers from each Regional Education Gabriel Brothers to find out more about



Kenzie Jones and Shannon Meade educate Walmart shoppers about the benefits of AmberVision in Logan Co.

RESA continues to collaborate with Michael Green, West Virginia State the West Virginia Department of Edu-Board of Education. "However, the vi- cation and AmberVision to support the tal information AmberVision releases to program through community education

cal responders, can take advantage of At five W.Va. high schools, it's a Challenge to reward achievement

ing are also a place for students to be TeleTech. professional training topics RESA rewarded monetarily for their scholastic Program, Inc. to West Virginia.

looking forward to continuing the enrolled in RESA 6 area high schools dent receives \$250. John Marshall and Cameron, both locatment efforts reach more than 100,000 have the opportunity to take home \$250 ting," said Kelly Merritt, TCP's Managbeen made possible by RESA 6's efforts cash awards to deserving students to explain the importance of The Chal-

Schools are a place to learn; but at lenge Program to local business sponfessional development training from five high schools in Regional Education sors Chesapeake Energy, CONSOL Service Agency 6, institutions of learn- Energy, Select Energy Services and

The Challenge Program recognizes and community achievements. RESA 6 four students from each grade: one who als affected by the classes, one could has forged a relationship that has has excelled in academics; one for his say that RESA is providing a service brought the successful Pennsylvania or her academic involvement; another based non-profit agency, The Challenge for his or her community service efforts, and a final student for his or her Sophomores, juniors and seniors attendance record. Each selected stu-

"The Challenge Program has a reced in Marshall County; and Magnolia, ord of helping students create positive Valley and Hundred in Wetzel County, habits in and outside the classroom set-West Virginia educators and others in for their academic efforts; community er of Program Development for West service and attendance record. The cash Virginia. . "Through the support of our prizes for these deserving students have sponsors, we're very pleased to offer

See Challenge, Page 7

On the 9th life, equipment and knowledge save four-legged friends

When the lives of four-legged and feathered friends in Regional Education Service Agency 8 are in danger, they'll be able to get a little help from their human companions. RESA 8 Public Service Training division understands how much people care for their pets, which has prompted the coordination of the PAWS (Pets are Worth Saving) initiative.

"We're very pleased PAWS is part of our health and safety services," said RESA 8 Executive Director Jane Lynch. "People really do consider pets part of their family and are willing to learn how to provide for their well-being and donate toward the cause."

This RESA 8 project provides fire and emergency medical service departments with specially-designed pet lifesaving equipment and has given the public a chance to learn animal first aid during a special class.

Because animals have unique facial structures compared to people, they cannot use the same oxygen mask. Specially-made masks have been created with various pets and their sizes in mind when they need help breathing, for example, after a fire rescue. To help save the life of an individual or family's pet, RESA 8 has assisted in the purchase of kits that contain three different-sized oxygen masks, tubing, a leash and instructions for pet first aid and CPR.

While some of 90 fire and EMS departments within RESA 8's eight counties already have pet oxygen masks, there are few small pet masks available. Individuals representing fire and EMS departments have expressed their appreciation for RESA 8's PAWS initiative. They have told **RESA 8 Public Service Training Coordinator David Plume** the special bag enables them to find the masks quickly and have what they need to help an injured pet.

To help ensure fire and EMS crews have the kits,

WVETC: From Page 3

25 to 30 classes it offers for certificaenroll a total of 600 to 800 annual par- and continuing education courses are plant operators that enables him to adticipants.

WVETC base; however, some continu- ter and waste water plants. The in cities across West Virginia includ- process Huntington, Keyser Elkins, Wheeling. By offering learning oppor- operators may request telephone or ontunities at various locations, travel site assistance from the WVETC for

time can be decreased.

Most courses are offered at the tors, inspectors and technicians of wa- made to their systems. control, and ment topics. Water and sewage plant of it."

PAWS has raised more than \$1,000. With donations and the shipping costs supplemented by RESA 8, 22 kits, which cost \$70 each, have been purchased.

"Response to the kits has been very positive," Plume said. "Because of so many funding cuts, fire departments and EMS agencies cannot afford to purchase extra items, such as these; but the effects that these kits can have are huge. They not only could save the life of a pet, but they can also lessen the effects that a tragic event, such as a fire, has on a child, an adult or an entire family."



David Plume, RESA 8 Public Service Training Coordinator presents Doug Pittinger of the Jefferson County Emergency Services with a set of pet oxygen masks.

Residents of the area were invited to participate in a Pet First Aid and CPR course that was sponsored by RESA 8. During the class, attendees reviewed the anatomy of cats and dogs; gained general information about animal injury and wellness assessments; learned how to administer pet first aid and CPR; and learned how to respond to various pet ailments including poisoning, bites, stings, and foot, eye and heat injuries. Participants also learned about rescue breathing, choking management, bleeding protocols and muzzling. While there was no charge for the class, donations of \$25 per person were accepted to support PAWS.

issues they are experiencing. Water Because RESA 5 knows that water samples can be sent to the WVETC lab tion. In addition to certification cours- and sewage operations need employees for evaluation or analysis; and through es, the WVETC schedules 60 to 65 with knowledge of the most up-to-date an online digital camera, Weigand can continuing education classes, which standards, more than just certification share microscopic views with water offered to the many managers, opera- vise them of what changes should be

"We're talking about infrastructure ing education classes are also offered WVETC also provides assistance with protection," Weigand said. "Our job is troubleshooting, to protect the infrastructure that we ing Beckley, Morgantown, Fairmont, maintenance, regulations and manage- have in the state and get the most out

Raleigh Co. educator named W.Va. Teacher of the Year

year language arts teacher Drema Education Services Agency 1. McNeal is West Virginia's 2011 Teacher of the Year. McNeal teaches Schools Dr. Steve Paine announced the made her worthy of this award," Paine sixth grade students at Park Middle honor Sept. 8 during a ceremony in said during the announcement. School in Beckley, located in Raleigh Charleston.

Commitment: From Page 1

used the Energy Conservation Pro- gram, and since then, through June gram for five years, and in that time 2010 has saved \$3,252,099. Wayne saved nearly \$5.8 million on utility County Energy Manager Bob Wellbills. Most of the utility savings oc- man explained he works with custodicurs between 4 p.m. and 6 a.m. on ans, principals and other employees. weekdays and throughout the week- who have helped save the more than ends.

Lincoln County schools and Eneryear of partnership. During the last two years, the school system has trators and RESA 2 for their support saved \$542,015.55 on energy costs, which represents a 24.8 percent sav- energy manager to monitor the utiliings.

"That is huge money for a district of our size; and it could not have been reaping the benefits of this program, achieved without the cooperation of the Energy Conservation program also our staff throughout the system: teachers, custodial staff, cooks and school mitment to national and global goals: administrators," said Joe Parsons, Lin- conserving natural resources and recoln County School energy manager. "I have really been pleased with our print that must be made when operatstaff's response to the program and the ing facilities. performance we have seen."

has saved \$1,029,000 and during the speak volumes," said RESA 2 Execu-2009-2010 fiscal year, \$321,000 was tive Director Dr. Dee Cockrille. saved.

portion of school budgets, it becomes how energy conservation has a posiincreasingly more important to con- tive effect on the environment and serve and manage wisely," said Gary how energy users can become energy Walbrown, Mason County Schools savers." energy manager.

ergy saving efforts are reinvested in a firm that has proven each county's school system.

important to the financial health of the States. Energy managers in RESA 2 county school system, but it is the right thing to do for the environment," Walbrown added.

Award-winning author and 24- County, which is served by Regional

Sept. 1, 2001 saw the beginning of Cabell County's board office has Wayne County's energy savings pro-\$3 million.

"We the taxpayers of Wayne gy Education are beginning their third County owe a big thanks to the Wayne County Board of Education, adminisand having the foresight to have an ties," Wellman said.

> While local school districts are enables RESA 2 to continue its comducing the overall environmental im-

"The savings that are created by Since July 1, 2003, Mason County the Energy Conservation Program "However, through the program we "As energy costs consume a larger are also increasing awareness about

Each energy manager receives The money saved through the en- training from Energy Education, Inc., methods of cost saving techniques in public "Energy management is not only school districts across the United always keep in mind the comfort of students and teachers to ensure a quality learning environment.

"Drema's dedication to her students and to incorporating 21st century West Virginia Superintendent of learning skills into her classroom has

> Now that McNeal has been chosen as the state's Teacher of the Year, she will compete with other educators from around the country to be named National Teacher of the Year. For her state selection, McNeal will receive a technology package valued at approximately \$14,300.

> McNeal holds a master's degree plus 60 credit hours and is working toward National Board Certification and penned and released "Kyle's Colorful Life," a book about autism; and her second book, "Jake Learns All Eight Parts of Speech" is scheduled to be on shelves later this year. "Kyle's Colorful Life" received the Mom's Choice Award Gold Medal for children's picture book.

> > See McNeal, Page 8

Paine Meets With **RESA** Directors

Regional Education Service Agencies will be joining the leadership team at the WV Department of Education. Dr. Steve Paine, State Superintendent of Schools, at a meeting with RESA directors, invited them to send a representative to the cabinet meetings.

"Each day West Virginia's eight RESAs are on the front lines of helping educators and administrators. Hearing from the grassroots at our department leadership meetings will be of such value. Their input and coordinating efforts will help us effectively communicate with teachers and administrators in each county and not only meet, but exceed our goals," said Dr. Paine.

Dr. Dee Cockrille, RESA 2 director will serve as the RESA representative.

Arts Integration strikes a chord

Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam tween the RESA and the West Virginia technology beginning this month. Counties, learning is getting a make- Symphony Orchestra (WVSO). over. During the 2010 spring semester, Regional Education Service Agency 3 tor Linda Anderson and WVSO Artis- Integration Project and have received spearheaded a pilot Arts Integration tic Director and Conductor Grant the goals, objectives, benefits and ex-Program that brought the arts to ele- Cooper developed and assisted with pectations. The activities that students mentary subjects. After a successful the implementation of the program in use to learn have been designed by first run, the program is expanding to the participating elementary schools. teachers using the resources provided. expose more students to the arts, and All project materials align with the as studies have shown, improve their West Virginia Content Standards and and think it will have a profound effect academic performance.

The Arts Integration Program be-\$2,500 professional development grant Worthington Benedum Foundation and Integrated Approach to Developing tary of Education and the Arts. With Professional Learning Communities," the \$33,000 in funding, RESA 3, the

Challenge: From Page 4

their awards to further their education, invest in their community, or splurge results, too. on themselves. It's a great program with a simple goal - motivate students participating schools scored higher on and prepare them for the challenges of performance tests. Daily attendance at the future!"

has roots in Pennsylvania, it also comparison schools. Dropout rates in branched to Delaware and Ohio. Now, since the efforts of RESA 6, the five percent lower than non-participating participating high schools are the first comparison schools. in West Virginia to offer the cash rewards

and president of MTS Technologies, Inc., started the program in his very proud to be involved," said RESA hometown of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in 2003 to inspire high school students to reach high academic and personal achievements. Since The Challenge Program's inception, more than \$1.3 million has been awarded to deserving students; and, it continues to help motivate high school students to give their best effort for not only themselves, but also their communities.

The Challenge Program agree that cash rewards motivate many students. Ac-

Objectives in all core education areas.

After the success of the pilot progan when the West Virginia Depart- gram, RESA 3 has been awarded a such as these will stay with a child for ment of Education awarded RESA 3 a \$23,000 grant from the Claude years to come." to initiate "Boyz in the Wood: An Arts a \$10,000 by the West Virginia Secre- tary schools during the pilot program,

cording to a report presented to the in each of the schools. Kids can use Pennsylvania Department of Education, The Challenge Program delivers

The report indicated that students at the participating schools was also two Although The Challenge Program percent higher than non-participating Challenge Program schools are one

"The statistics from the study are impressive; but being able to reward Dan Perkins, chief executive officer our local students for their achievements is something for which we're 6 Executive Director Nick Zervos. "I. and the RESA 6 council members, are looking forward to seeing the effects that this program will have on students' academic achievements and participation in their communities."

Leaders of schools that participate in The Challenge Program say community service hours have increased significantly each year and students who had Educators at schools participating in not been previously involved with community service are now engaged in such activities with hopes of winning a cash award

WVSO and educators in each of the eight elementary schools will be integrating music and art with language At eight elementary schools in which was a cooperative effort be- arts, social studies, math, science and

Educators and school principals RESA 3 Staff Development Direc- have agreed to participate in the Arts

> "We're very proud of this program on students," RESA 3 Executive Director Charles Nichols said. "Lessons

> At one of the participating elemeneducators formed a team and each team member presented a lesson on a single day. Students learned from the use of Venn Diagrams, finger puppets, masks, recipe cards and fractions. They also penned their own ending to a story they heard. These hands-on activities enabled struggling students to gain self-esteem. RESA 3 questioned teachers after the lesson, and 96 percent of those who responded said that their students thought the lesson was fun and exciting.

> To add to the Arts Integration Program, this fall students will experience a performance by the WVSO. The performance will retell the story of "The Three Little Pigs" with Cooper's composition, "Song of the Wolf."

OUR MISSION

To provide high quality, cost effective, life-long education programs and services to students. schools, school systems and communities.

Results: From Page 2

said. "We're changing the lives of students and their parents for the better. This program is sure to have positive observable results for years to come."

At each learning center, RESA 1 ensured students and their parents were exposed to the required academic enrichment opportunities and goals.

With assistance with homework from highly qualified staff members, students in the program were able to earn higher academic marks each grading period. Participants were also exposed to members of the community, including the Raleigh County K-9 officers, West Virginia Blazers professional basketball team, and representatives of the Mountain State University culinary arts program. Each center presented information about the benefits of a healthy diet, how to practice good citizenship and drug and tobacco use prevention.

Project Challenge 21st Century Community Learning Center Program has four goals: improve student achievement; increase graduation rates; improve the health and safety of children and youth; and increase parent and community involvement in education.

Butcher said he thinks RESA 1 has met these goals during the program's inaugural year and parents and students are also showing their support and appreciation of this RESA 1 initiative.

During interviews conducted with participants, the students explained they not only receive help with their homework, they're gaining self-esteem and given an alternative to activities that could lead to criminal behavior, lower grades or illegal use of alcohol and tobacco. Parents said their children now have a more positive attitude toward school and improved social skills. Assistance with lessons in a structured after-school environment was also deemed helpful by parents of participating students.



State Superintendent Dr. Steve Paine presents Raleigh County's Drema McNeal the 2011 West Virginia Teacher of the Year Award.

McNeal: From Page 6

McNeal When isn't "creative, original and innovative" ideexplained.

selected McNeal after its evaluation of using six county teacher of the year winners.

The national Council of Chief as to reach all of her students and writ- State School Officers created the ing books, she volunteers her time to Teacher of the Year award in 1952 and organizations and causes that benefit has since become the longest ongoing children and their families, Park Mid- awards program honoring classroom dle School Principal Marsha Smith teachers in the country. West Virginia has participated in the program since

A committee, appointed by Paine, 1964.

<u>RESA R</u>egions

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