MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

Summer is here and it is a great time to think about how REL AP can support you in your work for next year.

- Watch this short video to learn the many ways REL AP and our partners put research into action.
- If you have a research-based education question, submit it to Ask A REL.
- For the most current REL AP news from our work across the region, visit our website at https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/appalachia/index.asp.
- Or if you are looking for a more interactive way to keep in touch, follow us on Twitter or contact us directly at relappalachia@sri.com.

We are REL Appalachia, and we are here to support you!

Deborah Jonas, PhD
Director, REL Appalachia

PROJECT UPDATES

Learn About Our Work and Partnership Events

REL Appalachia works in partnership with school districts, state departments of education, and other education stakeholders in the region to develop high-quality research and to use and disseminate the research findings to improve student outcomes. These partnerships combine rigorous research with responsive training, coaching, and technical support and practitioner-focused information sharing to ensure that evidence informs practice in a timely manner to benefit students.

Using Data to Improve Literacy partnership
REL AP is excited to share a new partnership on using data to improve literacy outcomes in Goochland County Public Schools (GCPS). GCPS is a small rural county in Virginia committed to improving literacy instruction and achievement for elementary school students. Concerned about recent declines in students' preK through grade 3 literacy skills, GCPS is partnering with REL AP to analyze data and use research and evidence to strengthen practices and boost elementary literacy outcomes. Learn more on our partnership page.

Why Build a Logic Model?
A logic model can serve as a road map for addressing complex programmatic, systemic, and implementation challenges with a clear focus on outcomes and impact. Over the past year, REL AP partnerships created logic models to establish shared goals, strategies, and metrics and guide our work together. Read our blog to learn more about logic models and view examples from our partnerships.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS
Meet a Member of the REL AP Team

Ashley Campbell, Partnership Lead, Rural College and Career Readiness Partnership
Ashley Campbell is a senior education researcher at SRI International and the leader of the REL AP Kentucky Rural College and Career Readiness partnership. Campbell has more than 10 years of research experience, including technical assistance, design, data collection, analysis, and management. Her work regularly includes supporting schools and districts in deepening their understanding of research and developing their own data tracking systems for evaluation.

REL AP IN ACTION
Updates from the Region

Rural College Access and Success Summit
The REL AP team facilitated the session "Guiding Students to Achieve Their Dreams" on May 15 at the 2018 Rural College Access and Success Summit that Berea College hosted. The team led an engaging and interactive session for teachers, principals, superintendents, legislators, nonprofit leaders, and many others concerned with preparing rural students for success in college and careers. Learn more about the summit and view materials on the event page.

Appalachian Higher Education Network Conference
The 2018 AHEN conference brought together higher education stakeholders from Appalachia in Asheville, North Carolina on the theme "Opening Doors, Changing Futures." The cross-REL plenary panel featured representatives from four RELs that serve the majority of states in Appalachia who shared how RELs can serve as resources to the region. Each REL representative provided specific examples of their REL's work in high school completion, career readiness, and postsecondary access and success, with a spotlight on projects in rural settings. Learn more about the conference and view materials on the event page.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING IN THE REGION
Opportunities for Teachers and Administrators
Appalachian Support for Specialized Education Training (ASSET)

ASSET provides cutting-edge online, self-paced professional development in the form of stacked micro-credentials through Radford University's IMPACT Lab. Using simulations, ASSET provides busy educators with online evidence-based professional development grounded in the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) practice guides to increase teacher effectiveness. Learn more about how ASSET can support your PD needs.

View a short video here.

REL Appalachia
RELAppalachia@sri.com

Independent, Unbiased Research Support for Your State's Education Priorities

This newsletter was prepared under Contract No. ED IES 17 C 0004 by Regional Educational Laboratory Appalachia, administered by SRI International. The content does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of IES or the U.S. Department of Education, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.