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## 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](mailto: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



CJ Park facilitating a session at the 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](#).



- Appalachia
- Mid-Atlantic
- Midwest
- NE & Islands
- SE

### 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](mailto:RELAppalachia@sri.com)

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



**[ASK A REL](#)**

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