



**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY AND THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

This agreement is made and entered into between Marshall University and The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) with the specific and mutual goals of improving student engagement, preparation and achievement in science, technology, engineering and math education (STEM); building educator capacity in STEM through credentialing and professional learning; and increasing workforce readiness through coding, computer science and cybersecurity to support STEM learning.

THEREFORE, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT:

Together, in partnership, Marshall University and the West Virginia Department of Education will work collaboratively to promote STEM education in West Virginia.

Marshall University and the West Virginia Department of Education agree to the following:

- Marshall University will support a Faculty Mentored Internship Program (FMIP) with the West Virginia Department of Education in fiscal year 2018. The program has been designed to provide a stream of well-trained, talented students majoring in Computer Science or Information Systems to WVDE. The selected students will work at the Charleston office of WVDE and a designated lab at Marshall University on WVDE projects. Students will work 10-20 hours per week during the semester and 40 hours per week during the summer break.
- Partnership to create an innovative teacher preparation program of select Teacher Education Fellows through a STEM education scholarship program at Marshall University.
- Develop a comprehensive program at Marshall University in cybersecurity, which will lead to a degree.
- Marshall University will create a streamlined program of study for teachers with specific courses for the various programmatic levels in Computer Science.
- The West Virginia Department of Education will work with Marshall University and other institutions of higher education as part of a statewide initiative to review, revise and validate computer science content standards to ensure students are prepared for the careers of today and emerging careers in the field of computer science.

Additionally, Marshall University and the West Virginia Department of Education agree to the following general education partnerships:

- Together, the partners will address the statewide teacher shortage through linking the West Virginia Department of Education Careers in Education program with the Marshall University Teaching Program. Careers in Education, is a CTE program of study that allows students to explore the field of education while still in high school. Through a partnership with Marshall University, the Careers in Education program of study can begin the recruiting process of promising young pre-service teachers to fill the growing need of certified teachers within West Virginia. This partnership will allow Marshall University, College of Education, to write the secondary curriculum for the Careers in Education program, thus providing a smooth transition into any of West Virginia's post-secondary teacher prep programs. This partnership would also permit secondary students to take their Praxis CASE (basic skills) exam at no cost.
- Marshall University is the lead state agency for the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) early learning longitudinal study. This multi-year study aims to determine the extent to which high-quality early learning programs impact long-term student achievement. In collaboration with the West Virginia Department of Education, Marshall University's College of Education partners with NIEER (at Rutgers University) to ensure all data collection elements associated with the longitudinal study are implemented appropriately in the participating counties.

- Marshall University's June Harless Center is the partnering state agency for the West Virginia Early Literacy Network of Support. This Network of Support provides administrative support and five early literacy specialists, who provide capacity-building models of coaching for teachers to increase the quality of high-quality, standards focused reading instruction; technical assistance to County Campaign for Grade-Level Teams; and other supports to ensure the success of the West Virginia Leaders of Literacy: Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (West Virginia's comprehensive approach to closing the third grade literacy achievement gap).
- The West Virginia Department of Education working in collaboration with the June Harless Center at Marshall University implemented STEM workshops for middle and high schools across the state in 2017. A weeklong workshop was held in the summer of 2017 to assist schools in writing an action plan as part of their strategic plan that included: Workplace Adaptability Competencies, Personal Competencies and Academic Competencies. This sustainable model, with meetings and support visits throughout the 2017-2018 school year seeks to improve overall teacher quality in STEM fields by increasing teacher content knowledge with embedded best practices in current teaching strategies, tools, and techniques. In addition, the model addresses a culture of excellence promoting personal and workplace readiness competencies.

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West Virginia Superintendent of Schools

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Date

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President, Marshall University

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Date