



State of West Virginia
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Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Financial Education Summit, I regret that I am unable to be with you today. I am so pleased that such a diverse array of experts are gathered to focus this day on a matter of utmost importance to West Virginia – the education of our children. Your willingness to be here today and to begin the process of the development of financial education curriculum is a tremendous service to our state.

There is no greater investment that can be made for our future than the education of our children in the 21st century skills that are necessary to face the challenges of tomorrow. We owe it to our children to give them the knowledge and skills they will need in order to make responsible financial decisions throughout their lives. The formation of this partnership of educators, government agencies, the non-profit community and the financial services industry provides the structure and resources necessary for the long-term advancement of personal finance education in West Virginia.

Today is just the beginning of the partnership's discussion regarding the production of an educational structure that would begin with Pre-K, and then build each year through the 12th grade; leading our students to be prepared to face the personal finance challenges of the 21st century. Thank you for your participation, dedication, and concerted effort to educate West Virginia students in personal finance. I look forward to working with the partnership on this vital issue.

With warmest regards,

Gayle C. Manchin
First Lady of West Virginia