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SouthEast Educational, Inc. is a woman-directed, private, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to assisting groups and businesses in their efforts to improve leadership and learning through research-based professional development and communications.



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Tennessee
Appalachian Center
for Higher Education
(TnACHE)

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Educational, Inc.

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The Tennessee Appalachian Center for Higher Education (TnACHE)

The Tennessee Appalachian Center for Higher Education administers low-cost, high-impact competitive grants to middle and high schools for activities that encourage students to graduate from high school and prepare for post-secondary education. Students in Appalachian Tennessee face formidable and historically entrenched barriers to pursuing higher education including widespread poverty, low self-esteem, lack of knowledge about post-secondary education including costs, and a lack of family members or other role models who have participated in post-secondary education.



To stimulate and sustain economic development in the Appalachian Tennessee region, academic expectations, achievement and attainment must be raised for all. The academic components of high schools must be strengthened, high school graduation rates improved, and post-secondary educational attainment increased.

TnACHE is modeled after successful programs in Ohio and West Virginia which proved that students can overcome barriers to postsecondary education. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) established TnACHE at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in the Spring of 2002. The program has been managed by Southeast Educational, Inc. (SEED) since 2007.

The goal of each Center is to reach all high school students in economically distressed regions and assist them in changing the school culture to one in which all students are considered “post-secondary material.” Post-secondary enrollment rates for participating schools more than doubled from 27.31% before the program to 56.49% in three years.

TnACHE increases high school graduation rates, post-secondary rates, and establishes infrastructures of community-wide support providing *all* students with information about and access to post-secondary education

The list on the next panel are some of the recommended model initiatives that have proven successful in other regions that have adopted the Appalachian Higher



- Electronic resources for students **and** parents to research/explore careers, post-secondary schools, programs and scholarships.
- Post-secondary and business-related field trips for students and staff members.
- Leadership support for Principals and Parents focused on academic excellence.
- Improved educationally-related communications across communities and businesses.
- Parent newsletters, written by students, to inform parents about calendar events, special meetings, current activities, and school accomplishments.
- Parent meetings to provide information about school policies, upcoming events, and post-secondary procedures including financial aid, admissions, and college placement exams.
- Post-secondary education fairs outside the local district to establish contact with post-secondary institutions.
- Career and job fairs inside the district include representatives from post-secondary and businesses to speak to students about careers and post-secondary requirements and options.
- Teacher visits to post-secondary institutions and businesses to become more informed on behalf of the students.
- Information and resource sharing from the Appalachian Higher Education Network.