



Alliance For Learning Innovation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coalition Supporting Education R&D Launches as a New Independent Organization

WASHINGTON, DC – Sara Schapiro, Executive Director of the Alliance for Learning Innovation (ALI), announced today that ALI is now an independent organization. Incubated and launched in 2023 by the Federation of American Scientists, ALI is a national coalition focused on building a stronger research and development (R&D) infrastructure in K-12 education.

Since its launch last year, ALI has grown to include 50 member organizations, representing a bipartisan group of education nonprofits, philanthropy, and the private sector. To date, ALI has effectively communicated the value of increased federal investment in education R&D, contributing to the creation of the DARPA-inspired Accelerate, Transform, and Scale (ATS) Initiative at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and new Centers for Transformative Education Research and Translation (CTERT) at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Additionally, ALI has been a leading voice in outlining the benefits of an Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) for education. ALI brings broad awareness to the need for more and better education R&D to support improved student outcomes by organizing high-profile events, sharing education R&D success stories, and penning op-eds.

“The Alliance for Learning Innovation is bringing more resources to education R&D, which translates to more support for educators and students,” remarked Romy Drucker, director of the Walton Family Foundation’s education program. “Together, this coalition will help realize the ambitious vision that educators and students have for education, reinventing learning to be more relevant and inspiring.”

The need for new solutions and innovation in the K-12 system is more urgent than ever, with student performance data from the most recent Nation’s Report Card showing national math and reading scores at historic lows. Meanwhile, the infrastructure for studying, understanding, and implementing what works in education is woefully lacking. The federal government

under-invests in education R&D – a staggeringly low 0.4 percent of the U.S. Department of Education’s entire budget.

“ALI is bringing much-needed leadership and coherence to the education R&D ecosystem,” said Dan Correa, chief executive officer of the Federation of American Scientists. “There are many critical stakeholders in the education R&D community, and ALI is filling a gap by bringing them together to identify shared priorities and coordinate efforts for greater impact. I’m proud of what Sara Schapiro and her team accomplished when ALI was incubated within the Federation of American Scientists, and look forward to what they will achieve in this next chapter.”

Dan Correa will join Brienne Bellavita of the Walton Family Foundation; Chike Aguh of The Project on Workforce at Harvard University and formerly of the U.S. Department of Labor; and Karen Cator, formerly of Apple Inc., Digital Promise, and the U.S. Department of Education, on a new advisory council providing critical guidance to the coalition and helping to monitor ALI’s progress and impact.

ALI looks forward to expanding its efforts to support field-building, growing state education R&D capacity, and collaborating with its members and philanthropic partners to strengthen the education R&D ecosystem. As an independent organization, ALI will work toward a future in which robust R&D improves outcomes for all students and prepares the U.S. workforce for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

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The Alliance for Learning Innovation (ALI) believes that more effective, rapid, and strategic education R&D is essential to helping communities successfully address the most pressing obstacles to student learning today. ALI unites a diverse coalition of nonprofits, researchers, practitioners, funders, and private sector innovators who share a commitment to improving and expanding the impact of education R&D. Connect with ALI by visiting alicoalition.org or following us at [linkedin.com/company/alliance-for-learning-innovation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/alliance-for-learning-innovation). For media inquiries, please contact press@alicoalition.org.