

development resources to Kentucky's K-12 instructors. KET's GED on TV program has helped 11,400 adults in Kentucky—and literally millions more across the country—to earn their high school diploma.

KET is also leading the way in the industry's digital conversion, pioneering datacasting services for Kentucky communities in partnership with Federal, State and local agencies—particularly in the area of public safety, weather alerts, and homeland security. This initiative is serving as a model for similar efforts around the country.

Virginia Fox has been an innovator in distance learning throughout her prestigious career. She was a founding member of the congressionally-created Independent Television Service (ITVS) Board and created the first national ITV satellite schedule, serving more than 23 million students annually with distance learning curricula. She also founded the Satellite Educational Resources Consortium, the first public broadcasting/Department of Education interstate consortium for distance learning.

Virginia Fox's career is highlighted by numerous personal as well as professional accomplishments. She broke the glass ceiling by becoming the first female CEO of a national organization in public broadcasting. She has served on the board of the Public Broadcasting Service and chaired the Public Television Outreach Alliance. She received an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, Morehead State University, and earlier was named Appalachian Woman of the Year by that same institution. This year, she was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame and received the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Lifetime Achievement Award.

A seventh-generation Kentuckian, Virginia Fox proves once again that the great Commonwealth of Kentucky has an abundance of human resources. It has been my privilege to work with her during my tenure in Congress to ensure that America's children will continue to benefit from the finest educational programming available, and that they will enter formal schooling "Ready to Learn". She has demonstrated the power of television to educate, inform and inspire.

Mr. Speaker, the education of our children is one of our greatest responsibilities. Virginia Gaines Fox must be commended for her innovation, her vision, and her dedication to education. Her leadership will be sorely missed, but her retirement is richly deserved, and we wish her the very best that life has to offer.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE NETWORK

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let my colleagues know about an important education initiative that is currently under way in western Pennsylvania. This initiative is the School Performance Network, an organization dedicated to disseminating best practices in education to teachers, and to encouraging connections and shared resources among educators.

The School Performance Network today consists of 33 public school districts and 3 di-

oces from 14 different counties in western Pennsylvania. The organization's mission is to "assist schools and districts in the development and use of systems, tools, and practices that help educators improve learning." The SPN attempts to improve educational outcomes through the pursuit of "total performance."

Total performance is a phrase used to describe a philosophy espousing continuous effort to promote greater student learning and achievement. This approach focuses on setting high achievement standards and developing a curriculum that meets them. Total performance seeks to use these standards and performance data to modify teachers' instructional approaches. It also seeks to ensure that teachers and principals take full advantage of available resource like religious and civic organizations—and that they use the available resources strategically to maximize performance improvements. This approach also endeavors to establish a culture that supports collective effort and accountability. Finally, it emphasizes establishing partnerships to enhance and extend student learning opportunities.

The School Performance Network provides schools with access to research that highlights the best teaching methods, as well as to colleagues with similar goals and different experiences. This organization also brokers external partnerships and promotes Cooperative Learning Teams that collaborate across geographic and political boundaries.

The stimulus for this initiative came from the Heinz Endowments. This philanthropic institution recognized that isolation limited the ability of individual schools to improve student achievement. In the course of a 1996 program review of school efforts to promote "total performance," the Endowment's education staff, having made a number of grants to regional schools in order to improve education results, concluded that even greater progress could be made by promoting communication among these schools. The Endowment provided funding in 1998 to develop plans for establishing such a network. Subsequently, in early 2000, a pilot program consisting of 8 school districts was undertaken. Later that year, the pilot program was successfully concluded and the School Performance Network began expanding its membership.

I want to commend the Heinz Endowment for its vision in establishing the School Performance Network. I want to commend Dr. Mary Catherine Conroy Hayden for her leadership of the School Performance Network. And I want to thank the School Performance Network and its many partners for their efforts to improve the quality of education in this country.

Mr. Speaker, this regional collaborative effort holds tremendous potential for implementing education reform nation-wide. I urge my colleagues to explore the possibility of establishing similar efforts in their own communities.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT
JORGE QUIROGA RAMIREZ OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BOLIVIA

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I, along with the co-chairmen of the Speaker's Task Force for a Drug Free America, want to recognize Jorge Quiroga Ramirez, former President of the Republic of Bolivia, for his years of steadfast support, commitment and leadership in the fight against illegal drugs.

Most of us first met Jorge Quiroga in the early days of the Administration of former President Hugo Banzer, when he served as Vice President of Bolivia. He came to Washington early on in his tenure to seek U.S. support and backing for Bolivia's "Dignity Plan"—a five year strategy to remove Bolivia from the international narcotics circuit. At the time he assumed office in August of 1997, Bolivia was the world's second largest producer of cocaine with nearly 113,000 acres of coca under cultivation.

The Dignity Plan that was presented to the U.S. Administration and the Congress was the product of a well-conceived political strategy designed to build domestic consensus within Bolivia against the drug trade. Late in 1997, civic, religious, labor, indigenous, private sector and political leaders met together under the leadership of then-Vice President Quiroga, in what was called the National Dialogue, a series of discussions and consensus-building meetings around four pillars: Opportunity (economic issues), Equity (social development), Integrity (institutional strengthening) and Dignity (fight against drugs). This last pillar, focused on how to move Bolivia out of the international drug trade circuit by 2002.

As a result, the Dignity Plan began its implementation by the end of 1997, with ambitious goals centered on four areas: Interdiction, Eradication, Alternative Development and Prevention.

We in Congress have occasionally heard foreign leaders make eloquent statements about their plans to reduce drug cultivation and work with the U.S. to end this scourge—plans that ultimately were not successful. Bolivia proved how such a program can be truly successful.

There were two things about the Dignity Plan that we found appealing. First, it was the product of an extensive discussion within Bolivian civil society, seeking to eliminate the drug trafficking stereotype for which this Andean country was known. Second, we found in Vice President Quiroga an honest and sincere individual whose commitment to Bolivia's future as a drug free country mirrored our own commitments here at home. Vice President Quiroga was precisely the kind of straight-talking, action-oriented leader that we believed was required to take real and meaningful action. A great many of us signed on to the Dignity Plan and did our best to provide political and financial support.

Over the past five years, as Vice President of Bolivia and later as President, Jorge Quiroga implemented the Dignity Plan with stunning success. This past August, President Quiroga turned over the Office to his democratically elected successor, the Honorable