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CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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## RAHALL CRITICIZES ADMINISTRATION'S LACK OF COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

Bluefield, W. Va. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) lashed out at the Reagan Administration's failure to provide quality educational opportunities to low- and middle- income students in West Virginia and around the nation, naming the Administration's attempts to target education for the budget knife as the culprit for having deprived students of furthering their education.

In a speech today at Bluefield State College's homecoming convocation, Rep. Rahall deplored the Administration's emphasis on the defense build-up rather than education. "The President seems to be more concerned with developing Star Wars rather than future stars...more concerned with fighting his immoral war in Nicaragua than fighting the war against illiteracy in America...would rather build up fighting machines in foreign countries than build up thinking minds right here at home," Rahall told the students.

Calling education a "key to America's economic development", Rahall said, "What we as a community invest in schools and teachers, we earn back, over and over, in the trained and inquiring minds of the next generation of skilled workers and good citizens."

Rahall told the audience of the Higher Education Act passed by Congress last month, containing funding for many higher education programs such as Pell Grants, Guaranteed Student Loans, and others which will afford many West Virginians the opportunity to further and complete their education. "The bill represented a bipartisan rejection of the Reagan Administration's proposals for deep cuts in higher education," Rahall declared. "I am hopeful that the implementation of this measure will begin to fill the void in educational opportunities in our great state."

Rahall cited a study by the West Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, which showed that 76 percent of all student assistance in the state came from federal sources, as evidence of the necessity to fight the Administration's attempts to cut funding for education.