

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

WASHINGTON
 STEM



LETTER FROM CEO & BOARD CHAIR

In a year like no other, Washington students, families, and communities had to confront sustained challenges stemming from a once-in-a-century global pandemic while in the throes of a racial justice reckoning. These events, and their disproportionate impact on the communities we center in our work, made it clear that we needed to press on. While we worked to keep ourselves and others safe, we continued to convene partners to strategize about how we increase access to dual credit and STEM pathways. We worked with early learning allies around how best to ensure all of our littlest learners get the best start in education and life. We accomplished more than we thought possible in 2020 thanks to the dedication of our team and our partnership with you.

Last year we were able to ensure that over 7,700 students, predominately from underserved communities, were on track to receive a high-demand post-high school credential. Through the efforts of Washington STEM and our partners, 29,000 children were supported in early learning through resources provided to educators, parents, and caregivers. And through our partnership with Washington State LASER, 76 school districts were supported in developing and acting upon equitable STEM education strategies.

This year marks Washington STEM's 10th anniversary. In 2021, we'll reflect on our history, examine mistakes we've made, celebrate our achievements, and channel what we've learned into a new strategic plan. We remain committed to advancing equity in STEM education so that every student in Washington regardless of skin color, gender, or zip code can pursue a future in STEM if they choose. By creating clear through lines from the classroom to career, working with partners to support families and children with early learning resources and access to care, and using data to make smart decisions, we believe that anything is possible.

We don't want to go back to what was "normal" because normal wasn't equitable. We have the unique opportunity to reimagine our world as we work to rebuild it. From policies that promote equity in access to STEM, to supporting efforts to improve access to family-wage career pathways and early learning experiences, there is much work to be done. Together, we can move closer to a more just and equitable world and a Washington where every student thrives. We look forward to rolling up our sleeves and creating a new normal with you.



Angela Jones, J. D.
Chief Executive Officer



Liz Tinkham
Board Chair



OUR IMPACT IN 2020

- 1,000,000+ K-12 students supported through our STEM Network partners.
- Co-led implementation and scaling of Career Connect Washington (CCW)—an initiative that creates work-based, academic programs for young people—through the support of 9 CCW Networks and 33 intermediary grantees.
- Partnered with Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs and other regional partners to connect students with career experiences through 3 Career Connect Tech Academies.
- Through Washington State LASER—supported 76 school districts in developing equity in STEM education strategies and acting on those strategies.

“Equitable access to STEM education is key to the continued growth and success of our state. Washington STEM’s work is critical to creating solutions and statewide partnerships to advance educational equity, especially for students historically underrepresented in STEM fields.”

Jolenta Coleman-Bush
Senior Program Manager, Washington State, Microsoft Philanthropies

Explore our full 2020
annual report at

[www.washingtonstem.org/
2020annualreport](http://www.washingtonstem.org/2020annualreport)

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In 2020, Washington STEM partnered with the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs and other regional partners to connect students with career experiences and work opportunities through Career Connect Tech Academies. Through these Academies, historically underserved students gain access to the holistic supports they need to pursue a path in STEM that will lead to family-wage careers. “We knew that for the [Academy] model to work, we would have to partner with an organization that sits at the intersection of industry and education, and that’s Washington STEM,” Brian Moreno, Commissioner, Commission on Hispanic Affairs.