



Washington students need strong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills to pursue Washington's highest demand career pathways that lead to family-wage jobs – from advanced agriculture, ground-breaking biotechnology, to 21st-century manufacturing. Over the past few years, students in the **Apple STEM Network** have received cradle-to-career STEM education opportunities thanks to our partnership with the Washington State Legislature.

NORTH CENTRAL CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON

As the regional lead for the North Central Career Connect WA region, the Apple STEM Network championed the development of **6 new Career Launch programs** and celebrates the opportunity for students to earn credentials and benefit from paid-work experiences during their development. In addition, the collaborative efforts of the regional partnerships have served thousands of rural youth with career exploration and preparation experiences that serve to inspire and ignite their career development paths. The *NCESD Network Services Tech* program which was developed to meet a growing demand for trained technicians to provide technology services for the **29 School Districts** in North Central Washington, was endorsed by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges and Career Connect Washington in November.

The Apple STEM Network continues to support the Workforce Alliance to raise awareness about the opportunities for youth in the manufacturing sector in Grant County. Through partnership with the Workforce Alliance, the youth apprenticeship program saw it's first graduates in 2020, and continues to grow and expand slots for youth.

COMPUTER SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS

In partnership with Microsoft Philanthropies and TEALS (Technology Education & Literacy in Schools), the North Central Educational Services District, OSPI and Code.org the Apple STEM Network leveraged just over **\$123,000** to expand access to computer science education in the region. In 2020, the Central Washington region was nationally recognized as 1 of 10 CS ecosystems working to develop of a broad support system for Computer Science educators and students.

OUR PIVOT TO VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES

With the support of dozens of community partners, the Apple STEM Network and the Spokane STEM Network hosted the first [Virtual Career Expo Series](#) in the fall of 2020. More than **1400** youth and **400** college, career or community representatives across 10 counties participated in the virtual series. The events leveraged a digital

STEM NETWORKS SPARK CHANGE

STEM Networks are deeply rooted in their communities and provide local expertise to ensure that local needs are met. Each area of our state is unique and STEM Networks know how to drive maximum impact in STEM for every student in their region.

platform that allowed rural youth to directly connect with local development opportunities and career paths from a smart phone, computer or other device.

EARLY LEARNING IN NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

The Apple STEM Network in partnership with North Central education service district (NCESD) has leveraged **\$145,000** in new funds to support Early Learning in the region. This includes a **\$35,000 Creative Start Regional Grant** that supports arts integration efforts in Early Learning communities. It also includes an **\$87,600 Child Care Partnership grant** from the Washington State Department of Commerce to foster collaborative partnerships that expand Child Care Capacity in Okanogan County.

In August 2020 we hosted the first Early Learning Institute (professional development summit) to North Central Washington educators, care providers and parents. The summit featured 17 virtual sessions in Spanish and English over 10 days. There were **788** registered attendees.

THANK YOU

We thank the Washington State Legislature for their engagement with STEM education issues and the Apple STEM Network. Our collective and ongoing impact on Washington students means that every student, from our earliest learners to those on their way to a STEM career, are prepared to thrive in Washington's innovation economy. Our collaboration with the Legislature is essential as we work to strengthen our education systems so students in our region can thrive and contribute to the vitality of their communities.

If you have any questions, please contact Apple STEM Network Co-Directors, Dr. Sue Kane, at Suek@ncesd.org or Jenny Rojanasthein, jrojanasthien@qwata.org.

