



CAPITAL REGION ESD 113

**STEM
NETWORK**



REGIONAL IMPACT REPORT

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 **Capital Region STEM Network** have received cradle-to-career STEM education opportunities thanks to our partnership with the Washington State Legislature.

CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON

Each area of our state is unique and STEM Networks know how to drive maximum impact in STEM for every student in their region. In 2020, the Capital Region Network received a **\$125,000 grant** (including funds that emphasized rural and remote partnerships) to support collaborations with local businesses, nonprofits, and school districts that would create equitable access to career pathways opportunities for all youth. Together, we have brought career awareness programs like the *Classroom Robotics At Budd Bay* workshops at the Puget Sound Estuarium, virtual internships in marine science through underwater ROV design, construction & experimentation; and endorsed career launch programs in diesel mechanics and business at Centralia College. These and other joint ventures support all youth in our region, from Kindergarten to graduation, to ensure access to the tools needed to attain a family-wage career in a STEM field.

BRIDGING THE GAP FROM K-12 TO CAREER

Our Network's Second Annual Workforce Summit was held virtually in December 2020 to highlight some of the pathways opportunities in the Capital Region. Topics included Aligning CTE Coursework with Industry & College Pathways; Navigating the SBCTC Career Launch Endorsement Process; Growing Virtual Internship Programs for Youth; and Utilizing Registered Pre-Apprenticeships as Pathways to Family Wage Employment. Over **100 participants**, including leaders from business and industry, policy, K12 and post-secondary education, non-profit, and philanthropy participated in this summit.

MOUNTAIN TO HARBOR LASER ALLIANCE

The *Mountain to Harbor LASER Alliance*, a part of the Capital STEM network, advocates for strong science and STEM instruction in the elementary grades, to prepare all students for secondary success and post-secondary STEM career pathways opportunities. In December the Network created a series of workshops for elementary administrator and teacher teams to support and encourage increased class time on science and STEM instruction, in addition to using content-integration strategies to make important connections between science, STEM and other curricular areas. As elementary students gain important STEM skills, elementary and secondary educators can strategically plan for better alignment, and mitigate systemic inequities for students of

STEM NETWORKS SPARK CHANGE

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color, low income students, and young women who are passionate about future STEM careers. LASER (Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform) is a state science education program led by Washington STEM along with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Educational Service Districts, and the Logan Center for Education at the Institute for Systems Biology.

EARLY LEARNING IN THE CAPITAL REGION

Through an Early Math Innovations grant from Washington STEM, the Capital Region partnered with [Math For Love](#) to distribute *Tiny Polka Dots* math games to approximately **1800** rural and remote caregivers and young children in 2020. As a culminating activity, the Region held its first virtual Family Math Night event in January 2021 with families, educators and math experts engaged in learning math concepts through play. For the coming year, the Capital region continues its outreach to caregivers of young children, particularly in rural and remote communities, with additional early math events and activities with our partners: Paint to Learn, Block Fest Build-Off, and Math Anywhere.

THANK YOU

We thank the Washington State Legislature for their engagement with STEM education issues and the Capital Region 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, will be prepared to thrive in Washington's innovation economy. Our collaboration with the Legislature is essential as we work to strengthen our education systems so that students in our region can thrive and contribute to the vitality of their communities.

If you have any questions, please contact Capital Region STEM Network Director, Lorie Thompson, Ed.D at ltompson@esd113.org.

1,000,000 students across the state are supported through STEM Network activities and programs.

