



KING COUNTY STEM PARTNERS

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 King County have received cradle-to-career STEM education opportunities thanks to our partnership with the Washington State Legislature.

STATE OF THE CHILDREN REPORTS & ADVOCACY

In partnership with the Washington Communities for Children and the Department of Commerce, we are producing regional *State of the Children* reports that define the economic, workforce, and supply and demand issues related to early care and education at a regional level. For example, in King County we know an estimated 71% of children under age 6 lack access to quality, licensed childcare, and that an average family of four pay up to 33% of their income when they have 2 children in childcare. Our reports, through data and compelling real-life examples, are putting a spotlight on early care and education as a critical but under resourced part of our infrastructure. We are working with business, education, and policy leaders to ensure all families have access to affordable and high-quality early care and learning.

EXPANDING ACCESS: CAREER CONNECT TECH ACADEMY

In 2020, with support from Career Connect Washington, Washington STEM partnered with the Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA) to develop three [Career Connect Tech Academy](#) models adapted from a national Pathways In Technology Early College High School (PTECH) program. The King County program is at the combined Lake Washington Institute of Technology + High School campus. The Lake Washington Career Connect Tech Academy, slated to begin in Sept 2021, will focus on degrees in Computer Software Design and Computer Security and Network Technology. Students graduating from the academy will earn a degree and have work experience that prepares them for family wage jobs. Washington STEM provided crucial technical support to CHA and helped develop the programs in two additional regions: Pasco and Everett. Additionally, we developed a [Career Connect Tech Playbook](#) that details how to develop and implement a Career Connect Tech academy so these pilot programs can be expanded to regions across the state.

EARLY LEARNING: STORY TIME STEM

The Story Time STEM project works with library system leaders and children's librarians to improve and increase early math learning opportunities for children and families through storytelling. We partnered with the King County Library System and quickly pivoted to a virtual story time format to develop powerful STEM learning opportunities with families and communities online. Through these events, the King County Libraries reached **3,296** participants with joyful and engaging early mathematics learning.

STEM PARTNERS SPARK CHANGE

King County partners are critical to the success of STEM learning in this region. These partners are rooted in their communities and provide local expertise to ensure that local needs are met. They are uniquely positioned to drive maximum impact in STEM for young people in the region.

CONVENING EDUCATORS: WASHINGTON STEM SUMMIT

Our 2020 Washington STEM Summit went virtual. Over **300** attendees participated in the two-day event, exploring the ways in which business, education, and the nonprofit sector can work together to ensure all Washington students have the STEM skills needed to participate in our innovation-driven economy and access family-sustaining wage careers. This year we focused on the pivot to virtual learning, adapting in a crisis, and the impact to our childcare system and its earliest learners.

SUPPORTS FOR KING COUNTY SCIENCE EDUCATION LEADERS

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 Institute for Systems Biology. In Spring 2020, the North Sound and South Sound LASER Alliances, with support from Puget Sound Educational Service District and Washington STEM, hosted a workshop series for **13 school districts** to learn about evaluating, selecting, and using high quality instructional materials aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. Originally planned to be an in-person workshop over two days in March, the Alliance leaders quickly adapted to accommodate online access and district leaders' complex workloads.

THANK YOU!

The Washington State Legislature has been instrumental in supporting STEM education in King County and across the state. Our collective and ongoing impact on behalf of 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 education systems so that students in our region can thrive and contribute to the vitality of their communities.

If you have any questions about our work in King County, please contact Dr. Bish Paul at bish@washingtonstem.org.

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

