



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

NETWORK EXPANSION

Thanks to the interest and support of educators, business leaders and community organizations throughout Northwest Washington, the Skagit STEM Network is expanding. The new NW Washington STEM Network will work to be a catalyst for STEM education and Career Connected Learning in Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties and be housed within the Northwest Educational Service District 189.

RURAL HIGH NEED GRANT FROM CAREER CONNECT WA

The North Puget Sound Regional Career Connect Washington Network proposal is a collaboration between Snohomish STEM Network, NW Washington STEM Network, and the NWESD189 Career Connected Learning (CCL) Coordinator. The grant of **\$50,000**, funds two programs serving rural communities across our five-county region:

Rural Career Connections: Develop and implement an operational model to be replicated for rural districts that seamlessly joins community and the school district to career connected learning. In partnership with the CCL Coordinator at Northwest ESD189, initial work with the Darrington, Concrete and Blaine school districts is underway.

Virtual Career Connected Learning: The grant will allow us to research and adopt a set of best practices for providing virtual CCL in rural communities that are lacking resources to implement CCL within their own school districts.

INCREASING FINANCIAL AID COMPLETION RATES IN NORTHWEST WASHINGTON

Regional data shows us that Financial aid is one component to successfully completing a post-secondary credential. In 2020 we have joined a statewide effort to improve Financial Aid Application Completion (FAFSA, WASFA & College Bound Scholarship) in Northwest WA. This includes partnering with Washington STEM and the Washington Student Achievement Council to develop a data dashboard, tracking student cohorts from 8th grade through post-secondary completion; identifying and creating a best practices playbook; and funding partner orgs to deliver programs targeting family engagement in communities furthest from opportunity.

In 2020, the Foundation for Academic Endeavors Parent Academy held sessions in English and Spanish led by Skagit Valley College, College Success Foundation, and Burlington-Edison School District experts. Topics

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.



included "How to Support Your Student to Attend College," "Skagit Valley College, You Belong Here," and a "College Bound Scholarship Workshop."

The Northwest Washington STEM Network is also increasing the scope of work for the [FuturesNW From One to Many Program](#), which helps Lummi Nation students and parents/guardians throughout the school year navigate the high school to post-secondary transition. We have been able to increase outreach and family support at Lummi Nation School and Ferndale High School and host outreach events through partnerships with Northwest Indian College, the Johnson O'Malley Program, and the Lummi Indian Business Council.

SKAGIT REGION EARLY CHILDHOOD CONSORTIA

The Skagit Early Childhood Consortia received an Early Math Catalyst Grant from Washington STEM to deliver Early Math programs in Skagit County and support delivery of programs through their partners in Island, San Juan, and Whatcom Counties. The goal of this work is to improve kindergarten readiness in math for children who are furthest from opportunity, including children living in poverty, children of color, and children living in rural areas. We are hosting train session for key partners and early learning stakeholders in the following programs: Paint to Learn, Math Anywhere, and Vroom. To date, Paint to Learn has had **28** trainings and shared with more than **160** early childhood professionals, childcare providers, and parents

THANK YOU

We thank the Washington State Legislature for their engagement with STEM education issues and the Northwest Washington 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 Northwest Washington STEM Network Director, Michelle Judson at michelle@nwwashingtonstem.org.

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

