



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

EARLY LEARNING AT HOME

The Spokane STEM Network and a coalition of community partners distributed **1,000** sets of free conversation cards focused on early mathematics through the expansion of [Everyday Language and Learning Opportunities](#) (Project ELLO). Project ELLO is focused on increasing the number of quality interactions between caregivers and young children. Through the integration of meaningful conversations, home routines, and community spaces that are regularly accessed by families, ELLO resources encourage caregivers to talk with their children in ways that are thematically tailored to familiar routines and settings. ELLO works in partnerships with businesses, community-based organizations, and other educational partners to provide the essential resources Spokane area families and children need to thrive.

CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON VIRTUAL LEARNING

In response to the pandemic, we, as North East Washington ESD (NEWESD) 101's CCW Regional Network, co-applied for one of Career Connect Washington's **\$50,000** rural grants to create the fall Virtual Career Expo Series in partnership with North Central ESD 171's CCW Regional Network, Apple STEM. Students from both ESDs were invited to participate in one expo per week for six weeks, each week focusing on a different CTE pathway. Over the course of six weeks, over **1,000 students** and **394 presenters** (industry and college partners) registered. We plan to use the second part of these funds in a spring 2021 opportunity for CTE students.

BUSINESS AFTERSCHOOL® & TEACHING THE TEACHERS GO ONLINE

GSI's Business AfterSchool and Teaching the Teachers programs turned virtual and have engaged more than **110 students** and **educators** since October 2020. In addition, Spokane STEM has provided virtual training, materials kits and industry connections for **40** middle school teachers in **16** NEWESD 101 districts focusing on our current health crisis. In addition, educators received access to an aptitude and career exploration platform to broaden student knowledge of opportunities and pathways.

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.



POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS

Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS)

The WSOS provided a total of **\$787,500** in 2020 to **35** students in our region to study STEM or health care in a four-year program.

Running Start for Careers

Spokane Community College's (SCC) [Running Start for Careers program](#) offers local high school students a chance to complete their college-level vocational training while still in high school. As of mid-December, approximately **70 students** are enrolled in **22 programs** at SCC and **11 programs** at Spokane Falls Community College. Spokane STEM's role is to elevate the importance of programs such as this to ensure students have access to equitable programs that kickstart their postsecondary journey while still in high school.

INCREASING FAFSA AND WASFA COMPLETION

Spokane STEM utilized WA STEM's FAFSA/WASFA proviso to support **6** free virtual completion events in our region hosted by College Success Foundation (CSF) at the end of 2020 which engaged **112** students/families across **52** schools in NEWESD 101. Unfortunately, the pandemic has negatively affected our region's completion rates, but events like this are critical to keeping resources and support front of mind.

THANK YOU

We thank the Washington State Legislature for their engagement with STEM education issues and the Spokane 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 Spokane STEM's Network Director, Cassidy Peterson at cpeterson@greaterspokane.org.

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

