



Every Child. One Community. Cradle to Career.

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

TEACHER EXTERNSHIP AND WORKSHOPS

The Tacoma STEAM Network partnered with West Sound STEM and Capital Region STEM Networks to continue our *Powering Up Educators* professional development series. Through this partnership, **seven** teachers and educators had a virtual hands-on experience and learned more about careers in [Controls Technology](#). In addition, we held a *STEM Cafe* that focused on careers in Marine and Water Science as well as held a virtual Apprenticeship panel for **sixty** Tacoma Public School teachers and educators with our partners at Local 26 Union to demystify the stereotypes about the trades.

TACOMA STEAM BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

The Tacoma STEAM Network launched the first ever Business Roundtable, a part of the local collective impact initiative. A group of **15** local industry leaders including *City of Tacoma*, *US Army-JBLM*, and *Korsmo Construction* have convened quarterly to discuss student pathways to local industries and careers, including apprenticeships, construction, military, healthcare, and others. This expanded level of engagement with our local economic leaders has led to greater alignment to career exploration and opportunities for our students.

CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING

Investments from the State of Washington's Career Connected Learning Initiative have made a tremendous impact on our community's youth serving organizations, allowing them to expand the number of students they serve and the variety of career exploration programs they offer. The Tacoma STEAM Network's Career Connected Learning workgroup continues to play an integral role in our partners' effort to connect students to a postsecondary and/or career pathway of best fit, including exploration with City of Tacoma's *Summer Jobs 253* program and College Success Foundation's work around both Career Connect WA and Tacoma Public School's *High School & Beyond Plan*.

EARLY LEARNING

Tacoma STEAM will partner with our Early Learning partners to host an early math workshop with an anticipated **150** caregiving adults with ZENO Math through our Building Connections Professional

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.



Development Workshops. This workshop will provide training, professional development credits, and ZENO math kits to early childcare providers and parents, specifically those serving low income students and students of color. We also launched a social media campaign promoting the “How Many” Math series, encouraging families to explore math concepts in and around their homes and environment.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR LASER

Members of the STEAM Network successfully garnered support for LASER (Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform) funding from Pierce County Senator Steve Conway. Senator Conway filed and championed a budget proviso in 2020 which increased and fully funded the LASER program statewide. The Tacoma STEAM Network looks forward to working with the South Sound LASER Alliance to elevate student voices, provide rich science and STEM experiences in the classroom, and promote Career Connected Learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

THANK YOU

We thank the Washington State Legislature for their engagement with STEM education issues and the Tacoma STEAM 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 Tacoma STEAM Network Director, Chanel R. Hall at chall@graduatetacoma.org

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

