



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 six years, students in the Apple STEM Network region have received cradle-to-career STEM education opportunities thanks to our partnership with the Washington State Legislature.

NORTH CENTRAL CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON

As the regional lead for the North Central Career Connect WA region, the Apple STEM Network championed the development of 4 new Career Launch programs in 2021 and celebrates the opportunity for students to earn high-demand credentials and benefit from paid-work experiences during their development. Industries supported include IT, Aerospace, Engineering, Manufacturing, Computer Systems, and Hospitality.

The Wenatchee Valley College [Career Launch in Computer-Aided Design](#), endorsed by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges and Career Connect Washington, was developed as a consortium across 3 counties: Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan. The partnership between **4 school districts and 5 regional employers** is already serving more than 160 students in articulated coursework at local high schools.

In addition, in November, the collaborative efforts of the regional partnerships launched the first-ever [NCW College and Career Expo and Conference](#) for youth, serving nearly **800 rural youth** from across the region.

COMPUTER SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS

In partnership with Microsoft Philanthropies and TEALS (Technology Education & Literacy in Schools), North Central Educational Services District, OSPI, Code.org and Career Connect Washington, the Apple STEM Network leveraged just over **\$378,000** in the last year to expand access to computer science education in the region. Four school districts have strategic plans for K-12 computer science education ([SCRIPT plans](#)) that identify teaching capacity as a top priority for implementing equitable computer science education. In 2021, the regional network helped with outreach and recruitment, and NCESD and Code.org provided professional learning for just over **200 elementary educators** and counting! We've now partnered with Microsoft TEALS to support CS implementation efforts in 18 regional school districts, and through regional network collaboration, students can now articulate their coursework to Big Bend Community College, Wenatchee Valley College, or Central Washington University to get ahead in certificate and degree programs.

In the fall of 2021, Microsoft Techspark and the Apple STEM Network recruited Seattle-based nonprofit, [Computing for All](#), to the region to support the development of a Data Center Technician prep pathway for Quincy High School Students in partnership with Big Bend Community College, and the Grant County Industrial Alliance. The group submitted a successful application for Career Connect Washington Intermediary funding this fall and program development just got underway!

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.



COMMUNITY AWARENESS & ENGAGEMENT

The Apple STEM Network continues to advocate and champion for STEM education across North Central Washington. This year programs like the [Computer Science Education Week](#) events, [Women in Science](#), the [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Expo](#), [NCESD STEM Summit](#), [NCW Tech and STEM Showcase](#), and [NCW Innovator Awards](#) programs we engaged thousands of students, families, educators, industry professionals and community leaders across the region to create a common vision and excitement about what is possible for youth through STEM education.

EARLY LEARNING IN NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

Early learning access is a critical issue in North Central Washington and the Apple STEM Network is leveraging relationships, data and community connections to find collaborative solutions. In June, the network hosted a [town hall forum](#) to invite community partners to review regional [State of the Children](#) report and consider [innovative solutions](#) to [expand childcare capacity](#) across dozens of rural communities.

In August 2021, we hosted the second **Early Learning Institute** for North Central Washington educators, care providers, and parents. The summit featured **14 virtual sessions for 571 registered attendees** in Spanish and English over 5 days. We're working alongside local career and technical education programs in Wenatchee and Leavenworth to create an early on-ramp to careers in early childhood education through articulations to Wenatchee Valley College.

THANK YOU

We thank the Washington State Legislature for their engagement with STEM education issues and the Apple 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 Apple STEM Network Co-Directors, Dr. Sue Kane, at Suek@ncesd.org or Jenny Rojanasthien jenny@ncwtech.org.

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

