



# 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 cyber security and 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.

## DUAL CREDIT EQUITY IN NORTHWEST REGION

Dual credit programs allow students to earn high school and college credit concurrently, reduce the time (and money) required to complete a 2 or 4-year degree, and correlate with a higher likelihood of enrolling in post-secondary education. Yet not all students access this resource. Why? In collaboration with Washington STEM, the NW Washington STEM and Snohomish STEM Networks are partnering with two comprehensive high schools in the region to survey students and staff regarding dual credit and compare demographics of who is being served by this resource. By gathering additional data, we will identify needs and work to close the equity gaps within dual credit access.

## FAFSA/WASFA COMPLETION SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS DAY

Over the last two years, NW Washington STEM has partnered regionally with Futures NW to support **over 33 Financial Aid awareness and completion events** and 16 high schools in Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan Counties. We are grateful to the legislature for supporting this work. In 2020 and 2021, 1,836 Washington students and families participated. Additionally, NW Washington STEM and Snohomish STEM, in collaboration with the College Success Foundation, Washington College Access Network, and Futures NW, are implementing a Financial Aid Completion campaign based in peer-to-peer social media engagement.

## CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON

Growth in the Career Connect Washington Northwest Region reached 8 intermediary grantees and 6 Career Launch Endorsed programs. Industries supported include Information Technology, Manufacturing, Marine, Transportation, Ecological Restoration, Behavioral Health, and Education.

A highlight supported by Career Connect Washington funding is the production of a film series called "[See Yourself In Me: A Spotlight on Women in STEM](#)," which showcases the tremendous opportunities for women in four of our highest demand, living wage industries in Northwest Washington: Information Technology, Health Care, Manufacturing/Engineering, and Construction. This 34-minute, highly engaging documentary, along with four supporting industry-specific films and discussion guide, capture the power of women in STEM by highlighting regional career professionals, post-secondary and K-12 students pursuing STEM, and programs of study available at the region's higher education institutions and apprenticeship programs.

## 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.



## EARLY LEARNING

Partnering with the NWESD 189, a virtual course was developed for coach teachers to learn about how children develop early numeracy understanding, knowledge, and skill, and then plan for classroom applications and coaching other teachers in their early numeracy practice. Focused on supporting Pre-K through 1st grade, the course equips coach teachers with instructional modules, activities, and materials to share with the other early learning teachers they work with. As of Fall 2021, coach teachers with an initial reach of 170+ early learning teachers were trained, with an anticipated 2-year reach of 350+ early learning teachers.

Additionally, in cooperation with the NW Early Learning Coalition and leveraging data from the State of the Children's Report, conversations were held with key business and community-based organizations within Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties regarding strategies for developing regional next steps based on county-specific community needs.

## 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 Jenny Veltri at [jveltri@nwesd.org](mailto:jveltri@nwesd.org).

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

