



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 [South Central STEM Network](#) have received cradle-to-career STEM education opportunities thanks to our partnership with the Washington State Legislature.

CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON

This year growth in the Career Connect Washington South Central Region reached 4 intermediary grantees and 5 Career Launch Endorsed programs. Industries supported include Manufacturing, Aerospace, IT, and Automotive.

CLIMBING HIGHER: CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

The **Climbing Higher: Expedition CWU** series was created through a partnership between ESD 105 and Central Washington University (CWU). This cohort-based model will provide students with the opportunity to meet other high school students from across the region who are interested in attending CWU, meet university staff who can help support the transition from high school to college, and receive much-needed resources and guidance. This is especially true for our low-income and first-generation college students. Through the three-part series of events, organizers will address barriers that prevent students from getting to and through a college degree and provide parents with the opportunity to hear from the parents of current university students and to get answers to their questions. The three-part series offered during the 2021-2022 school year will have individual sessions focused on Admissions (Fall), Financial Aid (Winter), and Summer Transition (Spring). This pilot program will expand in future years to include additional universities that are highly attended by students in our region

COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND TECHNICIAN (CAST) PROGRAM

In partnership with Computing for All, the Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center (YV Tech), and Yakima Valley College, the South Central STEM Network, and its partners have developed the **Computer and Software Technician program**. This new Career Launch opportunity was introduced in the fall of 2021 at YV-TECH. The CAST program provides students with the opportunity to earn an Industry Recognized Credential in IT (CompTIAA+ Certification) and the opportunity to interview for an 8-week paid summer internship with local employers that could possibly lead to full-time employment. Each CAST intern will gain up to 540 hours of classroom instruction in core competencies and up to 400 hours of work-based learning.

In addition to the Computer and Software Technician program, The STEM Network and its partners are developing a new program in **Cyber Security** at YV-TECH that will align with the CAST program to create a new 2-yr. CTE Graduation Pathway in IT.

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

The South Central STEM Network in partnership with ESD 105, and early learning partners is currently in Year 2 of the Early Math Innovations Project. The project expanded to reach and train the staff from 23 early learning centers in the region in the development of a growth mindset in mathematics as well as the Math for Love materials. The professional learning included Head Start and Migrant Head Start coaches, teachers, teacher's assistants, and families, to include in-home care providers in the ESD 105 and ESD 171 regions

STEM RISING STAR

In June, three outstanding young women were presented the inaugural STEM Rising Star Awards from the South Central Washington STEM Network. The three award winners were selected from 22 nominated girls from across the 25 school districts in the ESD 105 region. Young women in the 9th-11th grade were nominated for engagement with STEM in or outside of the classroom, the development of a novel STEM-related project, or by promoting STEM-related service projects in their communities.

THANK YOU

We thank the Washington State Legislature for their engagement with STEM education issues and the South Central 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 South Central Network Co-Directors, Mark Cheney at mark.cheney@esd105.org and Hugo Moreno at hugo.moreno@esd105.org.

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

