



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.

DUAL CREDIT IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Health and Life Sciences has long been a core industry in Spokane. Existing companies in health care, health IT, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and diagnostics employ 47,450 people in the region, and the sector is rapidly growing. A local project between [Career Connect Washington](#), [WSU Spokane](#) and [Project Lead the Way](#) is creating a Career Launch program to provide STEM high school students with dual credit, a meaningful industry credential, and paid work experience in healthcare, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and blood products manufacturing roles. This pathway will dramatically expand access for students who currently have to pay for postsecondary credentials that are often a repeat of skills and knowledge they've already gained in high school courses. This year, growth in the Career Connect Washington eastern region reached 4 intermediary grantees and 3 Career Launch Endorsed programs. Industries supported include Healthcare, Advanced Manufacturing, and Construction.

FAFSA AND WASFA IN SPOKANE

The Spokane STEM Network has partnered with the College Success Foundation and WA-Community Action Network (WACAN) to drive up FAFSA/WASFA completion rates through data, partnerships, and virtual trainings. Together, we have hosted four virtual workshops this fall and plan to host at least four more in early 2022 for ESD 101 students and their families.

CAREER PATHWAYS

Spokane STEM created six short videos titled "Finding Your Path" to help connect real stories and real people to current juniors and seniors in high school who are figuring out their next steps and how to fund their postsecondary journey. Emphasis on FAFSA/WASFA, communication and perseverance are highlighted.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/GSIgreaterspokaneinc/videos>.

The HUB Sports Center was set to host their first ever *Unlock Your Future* career exploration event for middle school students in October 2021 but had to unfortunately postpone due to COVID restrictions. Instead, **4,700 student handbooks** were created, with Spokane STEM/GSI's support, to distribute to schools with industry and

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.



pathway information for students. There was a large focus on highlighting careers that don't require a 4-year degree.

KSPS, our regional PBS station, has continued to expand upon their [Career Explore NW](#) website and career learning resource for our community at large. This phenomenal website showcases a variety of jobs, companies and details (i.e. salary information, typical work schedule, education/training needed) in one spot for students or job seekers to hear from local professionals about why they love their career and how they got to where they are now.

EARLY LEARNING

For our youngest learners, it's not the number of costly toys or flashcards that is of utmost importance but rather something completely free, talking. Language is central to all strands of a child's development, including early math. In partnership with [hELLO Math](#), Spokane STEM was able to support the creation and distribution of 1,000 STEM Challenge cards, plus 2,000 place mats and 1,000 posters in English and Spanish.

THANK YOU

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

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

