



**CAPITAL  
STEM  
ALLIANCE**

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

## CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON

The Capital STEM Alliance extended its Regional Network partnership with Career Connect Washington, with a two-year, **\$277,000 grant**. This year growth in the Career Connect Washington Capital Region reached **4 intermediary grantees** and **2 Career Launch** Endorsed programs. Industries include Manufacturing, IT, Natural Resources, and Construction.

Our collaboration with **Big Brothers Big Sisters** brought together STEM mentors in architecture and construction trades to provide at-risk youth with work-based learning opportunities in all aspects of creating a building. The **Bridge Music Project** prepared transitional youth for careers in songwriting, recording and production, and **Grays Harbor Youth Works** collaborated with the **Westport Aquarium** to teach under-represented youth to design and build UROVs that studied aquatic life in the region's waterways.

## BRIDGING THE GAP FROM K-12 TO CAREER

The Capital STEM Alliances hosted a series of virtual FAFSA/WASFA workshops for youth living in rural and remote communities, in collaboration with community-based organizations in **five counties**. The region sent out weekly financial aid updates and resources to student-centered partners and held two family financial aid events--which included a Spanish interpreter and were ADA compliant. An additional three events were held in April, May, and June as FAFSA/WASFA completion events. At all of these events, students and families received needed information about the financial aid process and direct support with completing financial aid applications.

The Capital STEM Alliance teamed up with STEM networks in Tacoma, West Sound and Mid-Columbia regions to bring a **STEM Educator Café** in creating snap circuits, to our region's teachers. Other STEM Cafes in Underwater Remote Operate Vehicle (UROV) design, construction and exploration were held by **Puget Sound Estuarium** and Grays Harbor Youth Works.

## 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.



## MOUNTAIN TO HARBOR LASER: SCIENCE AND STEM STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Mountain to Harbor LASER Alliance continued to emphasize the importance of elementary Science and STEM instruction, through professional development workshops on content-integration. At the annual Washington STEM Summit in November, teachers at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary in the Tumwater School District described how they collaborated to bring exciting, content-rich Science lessons to their students. In essence, students gain knowledge in every content area – English Language Arts, Math, social studies and the arts – through project-based learning experiences that address real world issues like climate change, global hunger, and creating clean energy sources. Engaging young children in content-integrated STEM education sets the stage for a lifelong interest in Science.

## EARLY LEARNING IN THE CAPITAL REGION

Capital STEM Alliance and its regional partners in early education showcased Dan Finkel of Math for Love in a virtual professional development workshop this fall, aimed at early education teachers and paraprofessionals. Educators also received over **500 Tiny Polka Dots kits** to use throughout the year in their classrooms. The kits contain engaging and fun math activities designed to reduce math anxiety in both young children and adults.

## THANK YOU

We thank the Washington State Legislature for their engagement with STEM education issues and the Capital STEM Alliance. 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 Capital STEM Alliance Network Director, Lorie Thompson, Ed.D. at [ltompson@esd113.org](mailto:ltompson@esd113.org).

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

