



CENTRAL PUGET SOUND REGION

REGIONAL IMPACT REPORT

CENTRAL PUGET SOUND – KING & PIERCE

The Central Puget Sound Region is home to 40%+ of Washington State's K-12 student population, half the students of color in the state, and more than half the state's STEM economy. To leverage the existing and vibrant collective action networks, Washington STEM is reshaping a collaborative approach unique to the Central Puget Sound (King and Pierce - in partnership with Tacoma STEAM Network). Our collaborative approach will continue to engage like-minded organizations, particularly centering organizations led by and serving Black and Indigenous communities. This is in line with our core belief that all 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 manufacture. [Meet Central Puget Sound Senior Program Officer Sabine Thomas, Ph.D.](#)

CAREER PATHWAYS

This year growth in the Career Connect Washington King/Pierce County Region reached **21** intermediary grantees and **27** Career Launch Endorsed programs. Industries supported include IT, Aerospace, Healthcare, Education, Construction, Manufacturing, and Biotechnology.

Y-WE TECH

The Young Women Empowered Y-WE Tech program enables underserved young women to develop college/career readiness through mentor-supported, project-based STEM learning using digital technology to explore coding and STEM careers. **Over 1100 youth accessed STEM education** through virtual Career Development events. Participants increased knowledge and understanding of the technologies they use every day; awareness of diverse STEM industry career opportunities; confidence in their ability to learn about STEM and pursue a STEM career; basic software development skills; leadership and communication skills; and self-confidence.

PUGET SOUND LASER ALLIANCE

Two of the ten Washington State LASER (Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform) Alliances, North Sound and South Sound, have merged into the Puget Sound LASER Alliance. This Alliance is a network that enables science leaders to respond to district initiatives and strengthen the science learning and teaching **across King and Pierce County's 35 public school districts, tribal compact schools, and charter schools.**

The Puget Sound LASER Alliance has a key partnership with the Puget Sound Educational Service District called the Science Leadership Collaborative. The Collaborative gathers science education leaders to learn equity leadership skills, so that teachers improve their practices and school systems remove their systemic barriers -- all with a focus on students who have been historically marginalized from success in science/STEM learning and STEM careers.

STEM PARTNERSHIPS 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.

STORY TIME STEM

In its third year of programming the Story Time STEM project works with library system leaders and children's librarians to improve and increase early math learning opportunities for children and families through storytelling. Over the years we partnered with several libraries including the Tacoma and Puyallup Public Libraries and the King County Library System to develop virtual and powerful STEM learning opportunities with families and communities online. In 2021, library systems have reached **9,089 Story Time STEM participants** with joyful and engaging early mathematics learning and the [Story Time STEM resource webpage](#) has reached approximately 1,800 visits.

2021 STEM SUMMIT

For the second year, the Washington STEM Summit went virtual. Over **300 attendees** participated in the day long event, exploring the ways in which business, education, and the nonprofit sector can work together to ensure all Washington students have the STEM skills needed to participate in our innovation-driven economy and access family-sustaining wage careers. This year we focused on the pivot to virtual learning, adapting in a crisis, dual credit systems change, and the impact to our childcare system and its earliest learners.

THANK YOU

We thank the Washington State Legislature for their engagement with STEM education issues. 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 Dr. Sabine Thomas, Central Puget Sound Senior Program Officer at sabine@washingtonstem.org.

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

