
February 28, 2017

Re: Support for Computer Science and Career Connected Learning

Thank you for your leadership during this session's intense work surrounding education. We the undersigned business executives, educators, and community leaders endorse a public-private partnership to accelerate STEM education solutions. We specifically support a \$12 million 1:1 public-private computer science education grant program (\$6 million state + \$6 million matching funds) and a \$12 million public-private 1:1 career connected learning fund (\$6 million state + \$6 million matching funds). The nonprofit Washington STEM commits to raise and align the matching funds and to manage state and matching funds with accountability for outcomes.

In our economy, a STEM education is a crucial part of basic education. STEM gives students the creative and skills-based tools they need to be ready for their future. A public-private partnership will make state investments in education go further faster.

Washington state continues to rank second in the United States in the concentration of STEM jobs. Over the next five years, 740,000 job openings will be available in Washington - 33 percent of them STEM specific jobs. Legislators this session have a historic opportunity to invest in programs that work to build a robust talent pool and help Washington students succeed.

Voters support STEM education throughout the state. 94 percent of voters recently surveyed agree that every child in the state should have access to STEM education. 83 percent believe that increased focus on STEM education will improve the state's economy, and 79 percent of voters throughout the state believe STEM education will improve their region's economy.

Investments in computer science education and career connected learning will deliver results for our students, workplaces, and communities. Computer science is foundational to many STEM careers and also gives students not going into STEM fields the creative and analytic tools they need to thrive in today's society. Career connected learning - high-quality internships, youth apprenticeships, job shadows, and real-world job-related experiences - allows students to enter the workforce prepared and engaged and employers to make confident hires.

Right now, only 11 percent of students have access to high-quality, state-funded computer science education. The aforementioned funding for computer science and career connected learning would focus on students that need it most - rural students, students from low-income communities, and students of color.

We have contributed significant leadership and funds to support computer science education and career connected learning. We are ready to do more. We ask for your partnership to ensure Washington students are prepared for a successful future.

Sincerely,

Undersigned business executives, educators, and community leaders



SUPPORT FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING

Business	Name	Title
Accenture	Elizabeth Tinkham	Senior Managing Director
Amperity	Kabir Shahani	Co-founder and CEO
Amperity	Derek Slager	Co-founder and CTO
Artemis Connection	Christy Johnson	CEO
Atkins Energy North America	Thomas Yount	Executive Vice President
AttackPattern	Steve Eros	CEO
Avista	Patrick Lynch	Community Development Director
Avvo, Inc.	Mark Britton	CEO and Founder
BoldIQ	Roei Ganzarski	President and CEO
CH2M	Vicki Bogenberger	Business Manager
CHEF	Barry Crist	CEO
Columbia River Economic Development Council	Mike Bomar	President
CORTAC Group	Thomas Eide	Managing Partner
Facebook	Vijaye Raji	Engineering Director
Galvanize	Jim Deters	CEO
GeoEngineers	Bruce Williams	Principal
Getty Images	Steve Heck	Chief Innovation Officer
Glowforge	Dan Shapiro	CEO
Greater Spokane Incorporated	Alisha Benson	COO
GWATA: North Central Washington Tech Alliance	Jenny Rojanasthien	Executive Director
Huawei Technologies (USA)		
Identity Clark County	Ron Arp	President
Indix	Heather Redman	VP Business Operations and General Counsel
Itron, Inc.	Philip Mezey	President and CEO
Lease Crutcher Lewis	Bill Lewis	Chairman
KeyBank	Carol Nelson	Pacific Region Executive
McKinstry	Dean Allen	CEO
McKinstry - Inland NW Region	Dale Silha	Business Unit Manager, Energy
Microsoft	Brad Smith	President and Chief Legal Officer
Microsoft Philanthropies	Mary Snapp	Corporate Vice President
Moz	Sarah Bird	CEO
Nintendo of America	Reggie Rils-Aime	President and COO
Parlay	Dan Apone	Co-founder and CEO
Outlines Venture Group	Gillian Muessig	CEO
Parlay	Rebecca Deutsch	Co-founder and CTO
Pinterest	Ruben E. Ortega	Engineering Lead, Seattle
Redfin	Bridget Frey	Chief Technology Officer
Saltchuk	Tim Engle	President
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce	Maud Daudon	President and CEO
Smartsheet	Mark Mader	CEO
Start it Labs, LLC	Gary Rubens	Founder
Substantial	Jeremy Borden	CEO

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T-Mobile	Kim Solem	Sr. Director, Corporate Responsibility
Vivid Learning Systems	Matt Hammer	CEO
Vulcan		
West Monroe Partners	Brian Paulen	Managing Director
K-12 Education	Name	Title
2017 Washington Teacher of the Year	Camille Jones	Pioneer Elementary, Quincy
Aches Valley School District	Duane Lyons	Superintendent
Battle Ground School District	Mark Hottowe	Superintendent
Bremerton School District	Aaron Leavell	Superintendent
Camas Public Schools	Jeff Snell	Superintendent
Chief Kamiakin Elementary, Sunnyside School District	Kimberly Frank	Principal
Eastmont School District	Garn Christensen	Superintendent
Easton School District	Patrick Dehuff	Superintendent
Education Service District 112	Tim Merlino	Superintendent
Educational Service District 105	Kevin Chase	Superintendent
Evergreen Public Schools	John Deeder	Superintendent
Finley School District	Lance Hahn	Superintendent
Garfield Elementary, Yakima School District	Alan Matsumoto	Principal
Goldendale Primary School, Goldendale School District	Chip Ferrell	Principal
Goldendale School District	Mark Heid	Superintendent
Grandview High School	Kimberly Casey	Principal
Grandview School District	Henry Strom	Superintendent
Granger School District	Margarita Lopez	Superintendent
Highland School District 203	Mark Anderson	Superintendent
Highline School District	Susan Enfield	Superintendent
Hockinson Public Schools	Sandra Yager	Superintendent
Kent School District	MAK Mitchell	Chief Academic Officer
Nob Hill Elementary, Yakima School District	Steve Brownlow	Principal
NorthEast Washington ESD 101	Michael Dunn	Superintendent
Olympic Educational Service District 114	Kareen Borders	Director of STEM Programs and Outreach
Selah School District	Shane Backlund	Superintendent
Sunnyside School District	Kevin McKay	Superintendent
Thorp School District	Linda Martin	Superintendent
Toppenish School District	Jeanette Ozuna	Assistant Superintendent
Vancouver Public Schools	Steve Webb	Superintendent
Wapato School District	Becky Imler	Superintendent
Washougal Public Schools	Mike Stromme	Superintendent
Wenatchee School District	Brian Flores	Superintendent
West Valley School District #208	Michael Brophy	Superintendent
West Valley School District #363	Gene Sementi	Superintendent
White Swan High School, Mt. Adams School District	Joseph Castilleja	Principal

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Zillah School District	Doug Burge	Superintendent
Zillah School District	Justin Irion	Assistant Superintendent

Postsecondary	Name	Title
Community Colleges of Spokane	Christine Johnson	Chancellor
Heritage University	Ken Bergevin	Chair of Graduate Programs
Olympic College	David Mitchell	President
Spokane Falls Community College	Janet Gullickson	President
University of Washington	Ana Mari Cauce	President
Washington State University	Kirk Schulz	President
Wenatchee Valley College	Jim Richardson	President

Community	Name	Title
Code.org	Hadi Partovi	CEO
Community-minded Enterprises	Kathy Thamm	Executive Director
Girl Scouts Eastern Washington & Northern Idaho	Pam Lund	CEO
Graduate Tacoma	Eric Wilson	President and CEO
Kitsap County Human Services	Doug Washburn	Director
League of Education Voters	Chris Korsmo	CEO
Pacific Science Center	Will Daugherty	President and CEO
School's Out Washington	Mari Offenbecher	CEO
Stand for Children Washington	Libuse Binder	Executive Director
STEM Education Innovation Alliance	Gene Sharratt	Co-Chair
Teach for America	Anthony Byrd	Executive Director
Techbridge Seattle	Callista Chen	Executive Director
TechNet	Joanie Deutsch	Executive Director, Pacific Northwest
Washington MESA	James Dorsey	CEO
Washington State Opportunity Scholarship	Naria Santa Lucia	Executive Director
Washington State STEM Education Foundation	Deb Bowen	Executive Director
Washington STEM	Patrick D'Amelio	CEO
Washington Technology Industry Association	Michael Schutzler	CEO