



SUCCESS WITH STATE PARTNERSHIPS: SW WASHINGTON STEM NETWORK

Students need strong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills to pursue Washington's highest demand career pathways - from building airplanes to monitoring the health of apple crops to researching cancer treatments. Over the past few years, **students in Southwest Washington have received a strong STEM education thanks to partnership with the Washington State Legislature.**



WASHINGTON STATE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship is a commitment by state government and private-sector employers to increase the number of homegrown graduates prepared for the jobs key to our economy. **In 2017, 84 Southwest Washington region students received college scholarships of up to \$22,500 each to study STEM or health care.**

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

In both 2015 and 2017, the Legislature approved funding to promote professional development, upgraded technology, and innovative efforts to engage underrepresented students and girls in computer science. **The Southwest Washington region received \$436,998 in state funding for computer science education, which allowed them to raise an additional \$464,112 in private funds to support student learning.**

CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON

In 2017, Governor Inslee designated \$6.4 million in federal funds from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to support Career Connect Washington, an initiative designed to connect 100,000 students over the next five years with employer internships, registered apprenticeships, and other career connected learning to prepare them with high-demand jobs.

The newly formed coalition Career Connect Southwest Washington received \$740,000 to activate the region's rich expertise in career connected learning by continuing work done through YouthWorks to dramatically increase internships and work-based opportunities for youth.

WASHINGTON MESA

The Legislature approved \$125,000 for expansion of the Washington MESA program to Clark College. This program will allow students historically underrepresented in STEM fields to receive the support they need to transfer to universities and earn STEM degrees.

We thank the Washington State Legislature for their engagement with STEM education issues. **These partnerships are a strong start, and we look forward to continued support to make the education system even stronger for Washington students.**

Got questions? Contact Ted Feller at ted.feller@swstemnetwork.org/360-952-3429.