SUCCESS WITH STATE PARTNERSHIPS: APPLE 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 North Central 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, 51 North Central Washington students received college scholarships of up to $22,500 each to study STEM or health care, representing up to $1.2 million for North Central Washington students.

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. North Central Washington received $138,014 in state funding for computer science education, which leveraged an additional $567,580 in private funds to support student learning.

Additionally, North Central Washington is part of the East Side Consortium, a collaboration of 20 rural counties in eastern Washington receiving $190,000, leveraged by $1.2 million in private funds, to advance equitable access to computer science education.

CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON
The newly formed coalition Career Connect North Central received $854,547 to engage students with career connected learning. Career Connect North Central addresses the challenges of a large rural region by creating career connect teams in the region's three labor market subareas of health care, manufacturing, and computer science.

WASHINGTON MESA
The Legislature approved $125,000 for expansion of the Washington MESA program to Wenatchee Valley 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 Jenny Rojansthien at jrojansthien@gwata.org/509-661-9000 or Dr. Sue Kane at suek@ncesd.org/509-888-7036.