SUCCESS WITH STATE PARTNERSHIPS: SOUTH CENTRAL 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 South 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, 179 South Central Washington students received college scholarships of up to $22,500 each to study STEM or health care. These 179 students could potentially receive up to $4,027,500 in scholarship funds.

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. South Central Washington received $261,040 in state funding for computer science education, which allowed them to raise an additional $361,387 in private funds to support student learning.

Currently, a partnership with 3 other east side Educational Service Districts has been a catalyst for providing teacher professional development related to computer science to 76 K-12 teachers in South Central Washington in less than 2 months.

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 South Central Career Connect received $831,984 to connect students with career connected learning. South Central Career Connect partners with STEM champions from local business and industry, education, government, apprenticeship-sponsoring organizations, and community organizations to provide equitable access to high-quality career connected learning experiences to rural and underserved youth.

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 Mark Cheney at mark.cheney@esd105.org/509-654-8804.