



SUCCESS WITH STATE PARTNERSHIPS

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 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, **1,751 Washington students were awarded college scholarships of up to \$22,500 each** (depending on enrollment and need) to study STEM or health care.

1,751 WA STUDENTS
RECEIVE STEM
SCHOLARSHIPS

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

In both 2015 and 2017, the Legislature approved a total of **\$4 million in public funding, leveraged by \$4 million + in private funding**, to promote professional development, upgraded technology, and innovative efforts to engage underrepresented students and girls in computer science.

Projects funded this year include professional development and a 1:1 student/computer ratio in the Nespelem School District, providing training and equipment to offer the first required computer science course in Washington state in Lake Chelan, and 22 other projects.

Washington STEM has also worked with the State Legislature and OSPI to pass **state computer science standards** and allow **AP Computer Science to count as a math or science credit towards graduation.**

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.

Eleven communities formed coalitions that include regional STEM Networks to create over **29,000 career connected learning experiences in the state.** For example, in Career Connect Northwest, serving Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom counties, the coalition will develop opportunities for almost 900 students that include 45 new apprenticeship opportunities as well as mentorship opportunities, informational interviews, job shadows, and structured work-based activity.

29,000 NEW CAREER
CONNECTED LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES

STEM CAPITAL GRANTS

The capital budget supports dozens of crucial K-12 and post secondary STEM projects. In both the 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 Capital Budget, the Legislature established STEM Capital Grants, authorizing **\$25 million** to construct or modernize STEM classrooms.

**6 SCHOOL DISTRICTS DEVELOP
STEM CLASSROOMS**

In 2015-2017, six schools/school districts were awarded projects, which include converting an old bus barn to modern STEM classrooms that teach 3-D printing, horticultural science, and engineering development at River View High School in Finley. Additional grants will be awarded in 2018.

WASHINGTON MESA

In 2017, the Legislature approved **\$1.5 million** for expansion of the Washington MESA program to **6 additional community colleges**. This program will allow students historically underrepresented in STEM fields to receive the support they need to transfer to universities and earn STEM degrees. Students in Clark College, Everett Community College, Green River College, Spokane Falls Community College, Tacoma Community College, and Wenatchee Valley College will now be able to participate in the Washington MESA program.

**6 NEW COMMUNITY
COLLEGE MESA
PROGRAMS**

In 2018, the Legislature funded the First Nations MESA program at \$135,000 ensuring Native American students will have access to a strong STEM education.

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.** For more information, please contact Jim Justin at jim@jimjustingov.com.