SUCCESS WITH GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS: WEST SOUND STEM NETWORK

Students need strong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills to pursue Washington’s highest demand career pathways - from building airplanes to military service to researching cancer treatments. Over the past few years, students in the West Sound have received a strong STEM education thanks to partnership with the Washington State Legislature and the federal government.

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, 35 West Sound 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 West Sound region received $134,018 in state funding for computer science education, which allowed them to raise an additional $134,018 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 Olympic Peninsula received $150,000 to refine their local design to connect students with career connected learning.

NASA PARTNERSHIP
West Sound STEM Network is a lead on a NASA grant collaboration, receiving $195,000 over three years to connect students and teachers with NASA Mission Science STEM resources, experiences, and STEM mentors and role models.

THANK YOU
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 Dr. Kareen Borders at borders@skschools.org/360-874-7059.