The FieldSTEM Journal

Dear Friends,

PEI is growing. While the organization has been working statewide since its inception, our ability to provide locally relevant, sustainable, on-the-ground programming to communities across the state is increasing. With this newsletter, we welcome to our staff three new FieldSTEM Coordinators. Our Coordinators work regionally to meet schools and districts where they are, assess their needs, develop joint plans and begin facilitating customized professional development programs that connect rigorous, standards-based classroom instruction with locally relevant, career-connected, integrated, field-based projects.

For instance, in the Cape Flattery School District, the teaching staff spent a day in June planning how best to integrate education standards around real-world, local experiences for students. During the upcoming school year, Cape Flattery teachers will participate in ongoing professional development, facilitated by PEI Coastal FieldSTEM Coordinator, Julie Tennis, to assess and improve their project plans. Teachers will be asking questions such as: How can I improve instruction to meet the learning needs of each student?; Are students coming away with an awareness of local employment opportunities?; How does the work students are doing in my class align with the work they will be doing next year?

As districts develop community-based programming, students and whole communities benefit. In an era where large national companies provide much of the curriculum for our school systems, PEI works hard to differentiate and encourage place-based curriculum with every school and district.

I thank each of you for your ongoing commitment to real-world science outdoors!

Kathryn



Sponsor Spotlight

PEI and our partners are leading the way in fostering real-world science education outdoors for K-12 classrooms. We are fortunate to have committed partners such as Hancock Natural Resources Group (HNRG) and Hancock Forest Management in expanding our reach, deepening our impact and achieving our mission to deliver FieldSTEM's place-based, real-world science education to school districts and educators throughout Washington.

HNRG has been operating in Washington State for over 20 years. In that time, they have built a reputation of being community-focused and strongly supportive of high-quality education and natural resource stewardship. HNRG is an advocate of sustainable forestry and is a participant in the Sensitive Lands Program. Moreover, they use management practices certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council to protect the future of forest resources in our state.



A Manulife Asset Management Company

PEI's partnership with HNRG brings the FieldSTEM program to life for many teachers and their students, especially those in communities that are surrounded by managed forests and whose economies and career opportunities depend on them. For instance, Hancock Forest Management and PEI partner with The Muckleshoot Tribe to implement FieldSTEM, infusing natural resource education and principles of strong stewardship into the K-12 science curriculum, using culturally-appropriate practices. The integration of

highly relevant and engaging science education is key to inspiring the tribe's next generation of STEM leaders, particularly in forestry and other important tribal natural resources.

PEI deeply appreciates HNRG's and Hancock Forest Management's generosity and their dedication to high-quality STEM education!

Program Highlights









What's New?

PEI welcomed three new FieldSTEM Coordinators to our staff. They will serve the Lower Columbia, East, West, and South Sound regions. We are thrilled to have them on-board! Meet your regional coordinator



Tree Farmers and Teachers Workshop

On a warm August day,
20 elementary and middle
school teachers gathered
in the shade beside a pair
of Douglas fir trees
infected with laminated
root rot on Wildcat Creek
Tree Farm three miles
northwest of ... READ
MORE

FieldSTEM Partners

If you haven't heard the news yet, we've partnered with Puget Sound Energy!

Through Puget Sound Energy's Powerful Partnerships program, we have the opportunity to collaborate with local energy experts to create new FieldSTEM Performance Tasks focused on renewable energy in our state.

These performance tasks will be a resource for educators to provide an interdisciplinary understanding of renewable energy for students in classrooms statewide. Stay tuned for the launch!

#FieldSTEMpartners



"Doing the right thing for our planet" is what PSE and the Powerful Partnerships Program is all about, says Christine Hoffman, PSE Community Outreach Coordinator. To learn more about what you can do to make a difference in your own home or workplace, please visit pse.com/renewables.

Special Shoutout!



"Keeping the future forested" is a shared goal of PEI and our partner Port Blakely. With their genuine commitment to FieldSTEM, we are able to continue supporting educators in teaching STEM outdoors.

FieldSTEM shows kids how to learn and make decisions in a real-world setting. Schools often teach math, science, reading, writing, and civics as separate subjects, solving hypothetical problems. Adults, on the other hand, have to synthesize all of these subjects simultaneously, using critical thinking to solve real-life problems—FieldSTEM mimics that multi-disciplinary, real-life experience in a way that excites learners and prepares them for their future.

Gary Kipp, Executive Director
Association of Washington School Principals









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