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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Olympia, WA

Implementing FieldSTEM™ Learning Across K-12

Pacific Education Institute (PEI) is excited to announce that The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for Washington State has awarded PEI a two-year \$1,000,000 grant. Public funds will be matched equally with PEI's annual campaign for foundation, corporation and individual donations.

Pacific Education Institute is reshaping the conversation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to include natural resources, agriculture and the environment - FieldSTEM™. This project is inclusive of all K-12 students and integrates Washington State English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science Learning Standards (WSLS) with field and work-based learning experiences aligned with environmental, natural resources, and agricultural sectors in the state.

Pacific Education Institute will partner with the nonprofit Washington STEM to develop the career connected FieldSTEM learning opportunities. Washington STEM advances excellence, equity, and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education for all Washington students.

"Over the last 10 years, PEI has played a critical role in connecting students with the K-12 STEM skills that are needed in natural resource industries," said PEI Board President, Bill Taylor. "This grant will make a measurable difference in reaching the students who lack these essential outdoor field experiences."

About Pacific Education Institute

PEI programs, or FieldSTEM™ is PEI's approach to conducting rigorous scientific investigations and authentic problem-solving outdoors utilizing the tools of technology and mathematics. They are integrated field investigations and project-based environmental education programs aligned with state learning goals and have been designed to help students (K-12) become socially and scientifically literate citizens, adept at critical thinking. Students:

- experience opportunities to connect interdisciplinary content, concepts and skills in the context of their community.
- apply critical and creative thinking skills to analyze issues and seek solutions.
- engage in stewardship projects that enhance or sustain the ecosystem and economy.

PEI's proven programs, FieldSTEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) connect students with local environments while engaging them in real-world science investigation and projects which contribute to their community.

PEI builds strong partnerships with teachers and administrators and reinforces a culture of real world, community focused education connected to the local environment. PEI envisions a sustainable economy and environment, fostered through FieldSTEM embedded in local community learning, that will carry on for future generations. For more information visit www.pacificeducationinstitute.org.