

## WASHINGTON STEM & PACIFIC EDUCATION INSTITUTE AWARD “FIELDSTEM®” GRANTS TO SUPPORT EXPLORATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CAREERS

### For Immediate Release

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Seattle – [Washington STEM](#) and the [Pacific Education Institute](#) awarded nine FieldSTEM® Career Connected Learning Grants to ten organizations throughout Washington state to support student exploration of natural resource management, agricultural science, and environmental science careers.

[FieldSTEM](#) is a program that engages students in real-world, primarily outdoors, interactive learning in partnership with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) community and business leaders in natural resource management, agricultural science, and environmental science. Students who are part of a FieldSTEM program will tackle complex problems in environmental science and use STEM skills to improve the social, economic, and environmental conditions of their local and global communities.

Nine organizations across the state, in seven of the areas served by Washington STEM’s regional STEM Networks, received a \$5,000 FieldSTEM Career Connected Learning Grant. The grants will allow the organizations to increase the number, reach, and impact of FieldSTEM career connected learning opportunities. Career connected learning is a continuum of awareness, exploration, and work experiences where students develop skills to support their future career success.

“So many Washington industries, from apple growing to clean energy, depend on natural resource management, agricultural science, and environmental science,” said Patrick D’Amelio, CEO of Washington STEM. “For that reason, we’re thrilled to partner with PEI and their FieldSTEM program to offer career connected learning opportunities that will be of immediate relevance to area students.”

“PEI is dedicated to preparing teachers of science in elementary, middle and high school to raise student awareness of FieldSTEM careers through stimulating classroom lessons and transformative learning experiences outside the classroom,” said Dr. Margaret Tudor, Executive Director of Pacific Education Institute (PEI). “Our strong partnerships with employers and non-profit organizations enable PEI to contribute to a homegrown workforce where our children are inspired to innovate FieldSTEM in their communities, attending to our increasing community needs for food, water, and shelter.”

Recipients of the FieldSTEM Career Connected Learning Grants include:

**Boys and Girls Club of Snohomish County/Marysville Boys and Girls Club** will engage 20 elementary and middle school students in interactive learning and field trips to explore the ecosystems of the Puget Sound region as well as environmental science careers.

**ESD 112/Southwest Washington STEM Network** will add up to six teachers to the nPOWER Girls program, a project that works to increase student achievement in STEM and cultivate girls’ interest in STEM careers through teacher training and professional learning. Learning this year is centered around “how can we use computer science to understand Earth systems interactions?”

**Mid-Columbia STEM Network** will support the STEM Like ME! program which will connect students underrepresented in STEM fields with STEM professionals engaged in environmental remediation at the Hanford nuclear reservation.

**North Olympic Salmon Coalition** will engage middle school students in solving salmon habitat restoration challenges alongside community partners and restoration professionals.

**Spokane County Water Resources** will engage high school students in analyzing local water resource issues and proposing creative, science based solutions to these issues while meeting professionals and inspiring career opportunities in STEM related fields.

**Walter Strom Middle School, Cle Elum Roslyn School District** students will work with field experts in natural resource management to develop interactive maps of plots of land including information on soil, water, plants, animals, insects, trees, and man-made impacts.

**Lincoln Elementary, Wenatchee School District** students will take part in interactive outdoor field trips to meet STEM professionals and learn about career options from ecology to agricultural science.

**Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center** will connect middle school students with forest, fire, and art professionals while exploring the ecology of their local forest, specifically addressing fire ecology.

**West Sound STEM Network** will develop program enhancements that support teachers and students to explore environment-based problems and questions and provide career connected learning opportunities.

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#### **About Washington STEM**

Washington STEM is a statewide nonprofit advancing excellence, equity, and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. For more information, go to [www.washingtonstem.org](http://www.washingtonstem.org).

#### **About the Pacific Education Institute**

The [Pacific Education Institute](http://www.pacificeducationinstitute.org) advances science literacy and deepens student engagement by empowering educators to teach real-world science outdoors.