

PEI 2018 Holiday Campaign

November 29, 2018

Dear Friend,

Donors to Pacific Education Institute (PEI) are champions for students and for high quality education in Washington. As one of our board members put it, **outdoor, locally relevant, experiential STEM education "is in PEI's DNA."** And our donors help keep it there.

This summer, PEI had the opportunity to talk with a career education champion, Tim Garchow. Tim is a long-time science teacher who became a principal, then later district superintendent, and who is now the Executive Director of the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA). Tim has committed much of his life to public education. He is also an active PEI board member and donor.

We asked Tim, "In your roles with PEI—as a donor and a board member—what has surprised you most?"

"I've been most surprised by what we've been able to do with such limited funding. We see all the great work that's going on supporting teachers and students—what if we had funding to reach even more schools across the state? I'd be excited to see the impact on student learning, particularly in cultivating entry-level skills so elementary kids going into middle and high school science labs have a deep understanding of the scientific method and inquiry-based learning."

Curious about his vision for the future of education and what he feels is most important, we then asked him "What would you like to see passed on to future generations through education?" And he said to us, "I'd like to urge future generations of teachers and students to never stop questioning. Never stop asking, 'Why?' or, 'How does this work?' Scientific inquiry is all about asking why. We come into the world that way. Human beings are hardwired to ask why—babies look at their hands with wonder; two and three-year-olds ask why

"Field-based learning and hands-on science allows the space for kids to ask 'Why?'"

-Tim Garchow



"Anytime we empower teachers to make learning come alive for students, it's a win."

- Tim Garchow, Executive Director, Washington State School Directors' Association

Check out more from Tim's interview:

PEI: Tim, what are you most passionate about?

*Tim: I'm most passionate about public education and the great things that teachers do for kids every day. You can't turn on the TV without hearing people say that public education needs this or that. No system is perfect, but I can tell you that, within the system we have, **teachers are doing amazing things for kids and PEI is part of making that happen.***

AND SO ARE YOU!

constantly. But once we get into school, we often stand in lines, we follow rules, we follow set curriculum and we read from books and we start losing sight of 'Why.'

As an elementary science teacher, I loved when a lesson would go a completely different direction because of the students. It ends up more in-depth and more valuable to a child's understanding when you don't follow a script."

So naturally, we had to ask Tim as a donor **WHY** he gives to PEI.

"I give to PEI not for what you do but for why you do it. What you do—your programming—adjusts based on the need. The vision of 'scientifically literate citizens making balanced decisions for sustainable communities' is why I donate to PEI."

This holiday season, please join Tim and hundreds of educators in bringing hands-on, relevant, meaningful education to more students across our state by making a gift to PEI. Thank you!

Happy Holidays,



Kathryn Kurtz
Executive Director



Lauren Rodriguez
Development Director

"I feel confident when I give a gift to PEI that it is truly going to achieve great things for kids."

-Tim Garchow



PEI: What do you see as the biggest challenge to making field-based learning accessible?

Tim: The disparity in resources among districts; and not just funding but also natural resources. An urban school might have financial resources, but not natural spaces. The rural districts have the woods and the creeks and tidelands, but they may not have resources for equipment or for training for their teachers. **There needs to be a commitment from the school boardroom to the classroom to go after those gaps. And PEI can help with that.**

PEI's executive director and staff are always asking, **"how can we take what we're doing to the next level and reach all districts?"** And the advocacy work that you are engaged in is helping to build awareness and understanding for policymakers in Olympia.

