Dear Friends,

We know that kids learn better when they go outside to engage in hands-on, real-world experiences. Our research has proven it, our teachers have attested to it, and students have shown increased motivation and comprehension because of it. The challenge is to support teachers as they design the curriculum and instruction needed to ensure students’ experiences outside have a high impact on learning. This is where Pacific Education Institute (PEI) makes the difference.

PEI is the only professional development organization that empowers educators to teach real-world science outdoors through its expertly designed, customizable curriculum strategies, workshops and resources that deepen engagement, save time, and highlight the environment, agriculture and natural resources. Additionally, PEI creates connections between school districts, educators, like-minded peers, industry and communities to support educators, advance FieldSTEM®, and promote career opportunities.

2015 was a pivotal year for PEI. Staff worked hard to create our strategic plan, launch a new website, publish new and revised educator resources, and establish important partnerships. PEI expanded our reach to Eastern Washington, supported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and worked deeply with the Shelton School District and Muckleshoot Tribal School to implement FieldSTEM®.

The year culminated on a particularly high note when PEI was awarded, through a competitive process, an Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction’s (OSPI) contract to launch a FieldSTEM® initiative statewide over the next two years. It is an honor to be recognized by the state of Washington as the organization to best accomplish the legislative intent to “integrate the state learning standards in English language arts, mathematics, and science with outdoor field studies using project-based and work-based learning opportunities.”

PEI is rapidly becoming an organization capable of bringing FieldSTEM® to all school districts throughout the state and we could not have accomplished this without the support of our partners, donors, faculty and staff. With this continued support, we expect to reach every school district, deepening student engagement without the support of our partners, donors, faculty and staff. With this continued support, we expect to reach every school district, deepening student engagement by empowering educators to teach real-world science outdoors.

Margaret Tudor, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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Update with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) — Field Investigations: Using Outdoor Environments to Foster Student Learning of Scientific Practices

With support from the Puget Sound Partnership, Drain Rang-er - Elementary and Engineering Solutions - Secondary stormwater issues curriculum
2015 Financial Summary

2015 Year in Review

FieldSTEM® IMPACT

Teachers Empowered 654
Community Connections Created 200+
Profession Learning Opportunities 50

School Districts Served

Total number of PEI FieldSTEM® Guides available
Total number of K-12 Educators reached
Total students engaged

Since 2005 PEI BY THE NUMBERS

114
9
9,443
238,929

Celebrate Our Accomplishments

Successfully completed for and received an OSPI contract, based on a legislative proviso to develop and implement FieldSTEM® activities, lessons, and work experiences utilizing Washington’s environment, natural resources and agriculture sectors; and integrated with Washington State Learning Standards (WSLS) in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science.

Continued our work with the Muckleshoot Tribal School to support their integration of forestry into their K-5 curriculum.

Worked with the Shelton School District to implement FieldSTEM® in grades K-5, 7 and 9. In preparation for field experiences during the 2015-16 school year, teachers were provided in-depth training, guidance, and community support.

Partnered with the Washington Invasive Species Council to encourage teachers to use invasive species as content for their curriculum, field investigations, and action projects.

Received an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant to implement “Eastern WA Students Engaged in Conserving the Columbia River Watershed,” partnering with the National Park Service’s “The River Mile” program.