Message from the Executive Director & Board President

Dear FieldSTEM® Community,

The work of environmental and sustainability education (ESE) connects youth to the wonders and opportunities that our natural areas and natural resources provide. Research supports the idea that meaningful time spent outdoors can lead to individuals better equipped to make decisions and take action to support healthy, sustainable communities. PEI has long been the leading statewide organization with a driving mission to get youth outdoors to learn. During the 2018-19 school year, our work to build systemic and sustainable programs in schools and districts across the state utilized current projects to inform and improve the work we do.

As one of the state’s ClimeTime projects, PEI’s Solutions-Oriented Learning Storylines (SOLS) focused on: 1) how to utilize local climate science information to support actions that will drawdown greenhouse gases and elevate student voice in their community, and 2) how to provide professional development (PD) that leads to culturally inclusive practice and equitable programming. We took a deep dive with our tribal partners to understand how to better serve indigenous youth and community, gaining insight, improving relationships and embedding indigenous ways of knowing in the units. The PD that supports these units reflects the importance of building relationships with local tribes, including the Since Time Immemorial curriculum, and utilizing the power of formative assessment to create a supportive, inclusive culture of learning in classrooms.

Our Educating for a Green Economy project is bringing together ESE professionals with workforce professionals, post-secondary institutions and Career and Technical Educators (CTE) to ensure our renewable natural resource and outdoor recreation jobs are showing up in the workforce data and that youth have clear pathways to those jobs. We launched our new FieldDesign guide to help educators incorporate field-based engineering design into FieldSTEM, and strengthened our FieldSTEM Notebook workshops to better address how educators can get outside with students and use notebooks to meet English Language Arts (ELA), math and science standards. All our work continues to strengthen our FieldSTEM programming. PEI is grateful for and empowered by the support and collaboration with our partners, please consider making a contribution to PEI in the coming year to help ensure all students receive real-world science outdoors.

I used to think I taught one subject. But now I think that getting kids outside and integrating math, ELA, art and science is the best way to teach! ❧

– Wahkiakum School District Workshop Participant
**PEI Values**

**Equity**
PEI values equitable FieldSTEM learning that is culturally relevant for each, and every student.

**Collaboration, Diversity and Inclusion**
PEI values inclusive and collaborative education that considers all voices, including historically underrepresented populations, when making decisions and designing solutions to strengthen community.

**Integrity**
PEI values a coherent education system that utilizes reliable and trusted scientific resources and relationships that inspire trust.

**Authenticity**
PEI values education that engages students in locally relevant economic, social, and environmental questions, problems, issues, and opportunities.

**Creativity**
PEI values education that inspires innovative, science-based thinking.

**Stewardship**
PEI values education that encourages students to actively take responsibility for the vitality and sustainability of the environmental, economic, and social systems of their communities.

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**2019 Directors' Legacy Award**

**Margaret Tudor**

Beginning this year, PEI will award an individual the PEI Director’s Legacy Award. The intent of this award is to recognize individuals that have, over the course of their careers, contributed to improving PEI’s position in the Washington State landscape.

In collaboration with Lynne Ferguson and key environmental and sustainability educators; Margaret was in the room when PEI was first envisioned. She supported PEI from her position with the Department of Fish and Wildlife before joining Lynne as Co-Director and then sole Executive Director of PEI. Margaret’s work to create a shared vision and collaboration with critical partner organizations led to the FieldSTEM Plus model, the pre-cursor to our current FieldSTEM model. The relationships she established with key organizations is reflected today in the strength of the PEI Board of Directors. While Margaret retired in 2017, she remains an active supporter and advisor to PEI.
Program Highlights

- 70 Workshops Delivered
- 1,148 Educators Served
- 368 STEM Clock Hours Provided
- 35,000 Students Impacted
- 1,148 ELA Performance Tasks Downloads
- 23 School Districts Committed to District-Wide FieldSTEM Implementation
- 333 FieldSTEM Guides Distributed (Print)

5 FieldSTEM Coordinators

- Julie Tennis - Coastal
- Hattie Osborne - South Sound
- Chad Mullen - Lower Columbia
- Megan Rivard - Central WA
- Mike Nepean - Eastern WA

NEW TEACHING MATERIALS

- 9 New Solution Oriented Learning Storylines Addressing Climate Science
- 2 New Guides: FieldDesign Focusing on Field-Based Engineering Design
- 2 New Performance Tasks Integrating Language Arts with Science
At our fall 2019 FieldSTEM Celebration, PEI honored FieldSTEM Award Winners. These individuals and organizations exemplify our mission of promoting a scientifically literate citizenry empowered to make balanced, well-informed decisions for sustainable communities. To successfully run FieldSTEM across Washington, we work with thousands of such individuals from key areas: educators, community partners, schools, school districts, elected officials, workforce professionals, natural resource employers, academic experts and education policy makers. It takes all of us to offer the support educators need to effectively implement FieldSTEM.

District of the Year:
Quillayute Valley School District

Teacher of the Year:
Candy Kristovich,
Chewelah School District

Community Collaborator of the Year:
Jen Thurman-Williams,
Mason Conservation District

Legislator of the Year:
JT Wilcox,
Washington's 2nd District

School of the Year:
Skamania School

FieldSTEM gives students an opportunity to be brave and try new things in an environment that isn’t necessarily comfortable for them.

– Principal, Chewelah School District
All students have the right to equitable, integrated, career oriented, locally relevant, field-based learning - so that they understand the interconnectedness of systems and can make decisions to support sustainable communities.
When you give to PEI, you support teachers in providing their students with learning opportunities that will help them become scientifically literate citizens making balanced decisions for sustainable communities. Ways to give include:

- Making an individual donation
- Donating stock
- Becoming a sponsor

To learn more, contact Henry Smith, Development Coordinator, at (360) 705-9294 or hsmith@pacificeducationinstitute.org.

For a current schedule of workshops and events, visit our website: pacificeducationinstitute.org

Community collaborators are a critical part of the FieldSTEM Model. To learn about opportunities to provide Washington students with integrated, locally relevant, career connected learning, contact Denise Buck, Program Director, at (360) 705-9286 or dbuck@pacificeducationinstitute.org.