



# PEI

PACIFIC  
EDUCATION  
INSTITUTE

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## *Increasing our reach with responsive and relevant programs*

2019-2020

ANNUAL REPORT





*"I used to think, it would be overwhelming to try and engage my students in outdoor learning due to the requirements, pressures, and general climate of my school... But now I think, I have this amazing resource to help me get started... I feel confident that I can use many of these lessons for both virtual learning and whenever we teach in person again. I also feel confident that these lessons and ideas will help my science instruction better engage all of my students."*

# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear friends and colleagues,

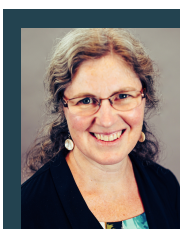
We are pleased to share with you Pacific Education Institute's 2019-2020 Annual Report and the successes that made this year one of the strongest most resilient ever.

Our ability to respond to the challenges and uncertainties of 2020 is a source of pride. We addressed COVID-19 safety protocols as needed, supported employees in a shift to home offices, and rapidly transitioned our programs to virtual platforms. We've responded to school closures by expanding our learning materials to support families, and by increasing our online presence we are providing more opportunities in new areas of the state. We are committed to meet the moment through antiracist work, have an active Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) committee, and continue to provide programs that reflect our values of equity and inclusion. In this time of greatest uncertainty, we were able to increase our reach and adapt our programming to support educators throughout the state.

Our programs are relevant and in demand. Bringing students outdoors, to benefit socially, emotionally and academically through nature-based learning is more important than ever. A spotlight has been thrown on a system that allows communities to lack green space and experience environmental and educational injustice. We are taking action to address these inequalities. As unemployment rates rise, our partnership with E3 Washington and the Governor's policy office is creating recommendations to improve an integrated K-12 education system that prepares students for green careers throughout Washington.

In our work to codesign with the community, PEI built new relationships and bolstered existing partnerships to strengthen our education system and create purposeful, real-world science programs. We not only reached more school districts than ever, our professional learning workshop registrations are 40% beyond capacity; long wait lists show the programs we offer are in high demand. More students at more grade levels are receiving quality instruction grounded in local solutions. We are building hope, scientific and civic literacy and students prepared to bring their voice to make balanced decisions for their communities.

Of course, we could not have done any of it without our supportive and engaged board, staff, community, partners, teachers, and legislators. Through these unprecedented times, support from each of you, has kept us connected and inspired to continue to meet the moment. We hope you'll find this report informative and inspiring. We are grateful for your contribution to our success.



*Kathryn Kurtz*

**KATHRYN KURTZ**

Executive Director



*Lisa Perry*

**LISA PERRY**

Board President



# OUR VALUES

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## VISION

PEI is a leader in promoting a scientifically literate citizenry empowered to make balanced, well-informed decisions for sustainable communities.

## MISSION

PEI empowers educators to advance scientific literacy by promoting equitable, outdoor, locally relevant, integrated, career connected, real-world science.

## VALUES

**Equity - Culturally relevant FieldSTEM learning**

**Collaboration, Diversity and Inclusion - Considering all voices when making decisions and designing solutions to strengthen communities**

**Integrity - Utilizing reliable, trusted, scientific resources**

**Authenticity - Providing locally relevant economic, social and environmental learning opportunities**

**Stewardship - Encouraging responsibility for the vitality of environmental, economic and social systems**

**Creativity - Inspiring innovative, science-based thinking**





# OUR REACH

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**77 workshops delivered**  
Professional learning focusing on building educator capacity to get students outdoors, meeting state standards while learning and contributing to meaningful work in their own community.

**15 storylines created**  
The Solutions Oriented Learning Storylines (SOLS) project is designed to strengthen teachers' equitable climate science instruction through locally relevant storylines.

**24 online workshops**  
PEI seamlessly transitioned to a virtual format as in-person restrictions were established.

**140 participating districts**  
A significant increase indicating the value of our programs in districts large and small.

**33 counties reached**  
Our programs reached counties across the state with locally relevant learning opportunities.

**8803 STEM clock hours**  
PEI is an OSPI-approved provider for Washington State Continuing Education Clock Hours. Most workshops meet the criteria for teachers to receive STEM clock hours.



**1730**

**EDUCATORS ENGAGED**

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## INCREASED REACH

Despite the challenges of the 2019/2020 school year, PEI met the moment and quickly modified programs to support teachers and district leaders as they faced school closures. We increased the reach of our programs by offering professional learning that created equitable access and modeled best instructional practices. Amidst the pandemic and shelter-in-place orders, demand for our workshops, attendance and waiting lists increased.

## RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

With the onset of COVID-19, PEI transitioned quickly to offer professional learning in a virtual space, converting materials and facilitation strategies to an online format and modeling ways to use apps and software to deliver meaningful outdoor learning experiences online. Educators communicated a struggle of how to deliver science curriculum online and our workshops provided them the tools and confidence they needed to work more effectively with their students.

*This was one of the best Zoom PDs I have attended! I appreciate the fun and positive attitudes, the use of break out rooms by grade level to dive into ideas deeper, the clarity of instructions and purpose, the chance to try out Sit Spots...Thank you!*

Additionally, PEI welcomed Lourdes Skydancer Flores to our Faculty, bringing a wealth of experience working with multilingual, immersion and migrant programs. This year she led our work to create Spanish versions of our Solutions Oriented Learning Storylines. This work is part of our response to districts need to reach all families with effective supports to ensure every student has what they need to learn.





# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## RELEVANT CONTENT

PEI's FieldSTEM model is based on getting students outdoors engaged in locally relevant learning. Studies indicate that during the COVID-19 pandemic learning outdoors increases safety and provides the added benefits of emotional and physical health.

PEI published 15 Climate Science Solutions Oriented Learning Storylines to address the impacts of a changing climate. We partnered with Indigenous leaders across the state and built in strategies to connect to local tribes, incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and the Since Time Immemorial curriculum. Our storylines are available as Open Education Resources, providing school districts with balanced, well informed, teaching materials to address climate topics.

PEI's Educating for a Green Economy (EGE) work, a partnership with the Governor's office, Employment Security Department and E3 Washington, continued to shed light on the workforce needs of the natural resource, agriculture, renewable energy, outdoor recreation and conservation sectors. Specifically, how we can support educators to effectively prepare students for the myriad of opportunities associated with green industries. In addition to hosting EGE panels that connected educators with featured workforce, industry and agency professionals, PEI offered our first Career and Technical Education (CTE) specific workshop. This workshop focused on our CTE Forest Management Framework, a recently approved for science equivalency by the State Board of Education.

*"I will use the activities in my classes to start a conversation about what future development in Washington state should look like. This workshop has encouraged me to take more risks in my classes concerning climate change."*



# 2020 FIELDSTEM WINNERS

These individuals and organizations exemplify our vision of promoting a scientifically literate citizenry empowered to make balanced, well-informed decisions for sustainable communities. 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.



**John Hunter**  
Teacher  
of the Year  
(Forks High)



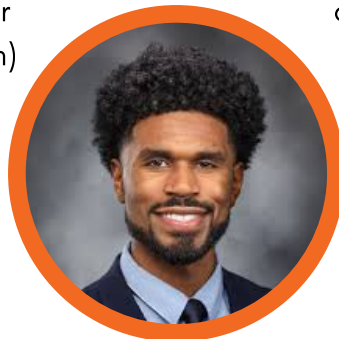
**Valley School**  
School  
of the Year



**Puyallup**  
District  
of the Year



**Capitol Land Trust**  
Community Collaborator  
of the Year



**Rep. Jesse Johnson**  
Legislator  
of the Year



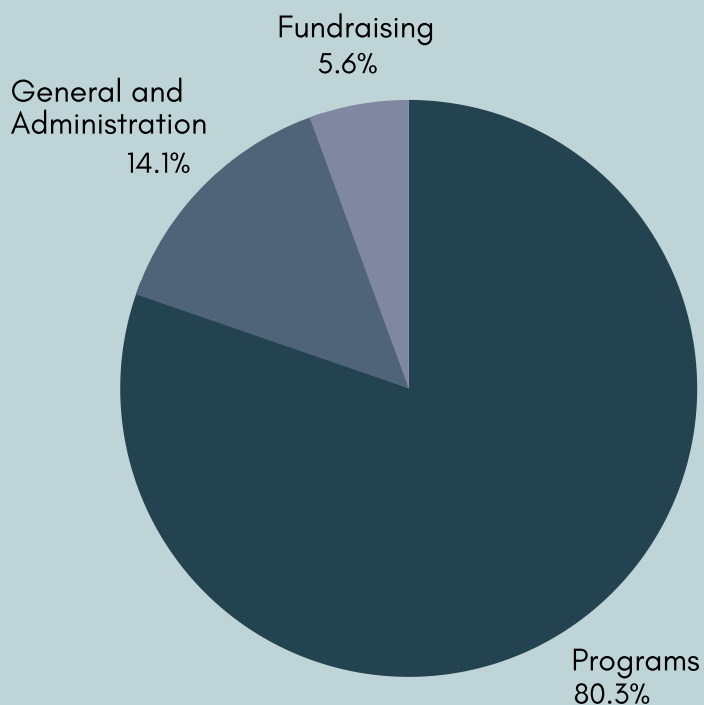
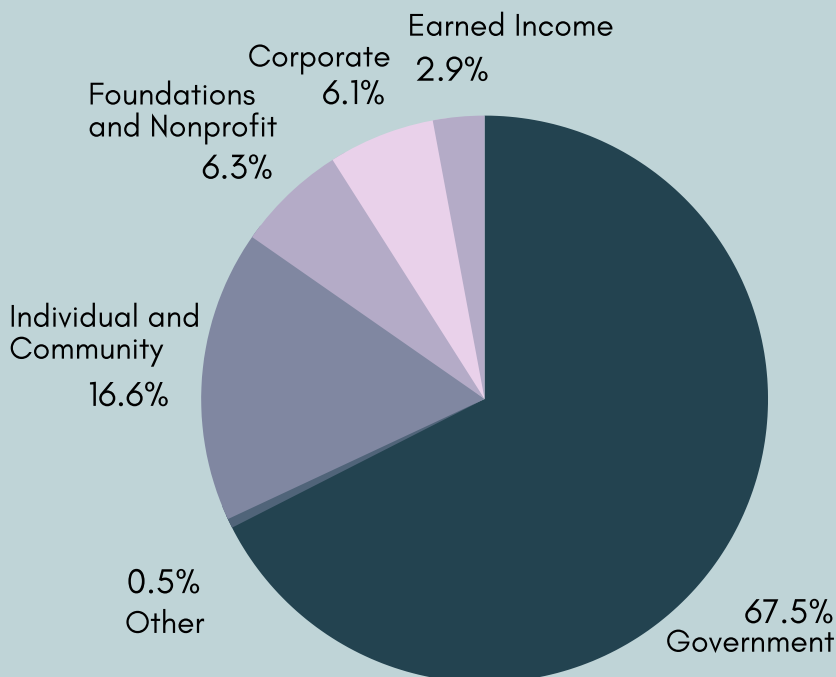
**Rep. Mike Steele**  
Legislator  
of the Year



# OUR FINANCES

## REVENUE

Government Grants	923,848
Individual and Community Giving	227,834
Foundations and Nonprofit Giving	86,256
Corporate Giving	83,250
Earned Income	40,108
Other	7,328
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,368,624</b>



## EXPENSES

Programs	938,960
General and Administration	165,355
Fundraising	65,226
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,169,541</b>

# OUR PEOPLE

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## Staff

Kathryn Kurtz	<i>Executive Director</i>
Denise Buck	<i>Program Director</i>
Gail Kramer	<i>Finance &amp; HR Director</i>
Katie Hatam/Nicole George	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Heidi Smith	<i>Grant Coordinator</i>

## FieldSTEM Coordinators

Chad Mullen	<i>Lower Columbia</i>
Hattie Osborne	<i>South Sound</i>
Julie Tennis	<i>Coastal</i>
Megan Rivard	<i>Central WA</i>
Mike Nepean	<i>Eastern WA</i>
Molly Griffiths	<i>East Sound</i>

## Faculty

Barbara Hins Turner  
Karen Lippy  
Lori Reynolds  
Lourdes Skydancer Flores  
Michelle Townshend  
Nancy Skeritt  
Pat Otto  
Randy James

## Board

Lisa Perry	<i>President</i>
Tim Garchow	<i>Vice President</i>
Gareth Waugh	<i>Treasurer</i>
Joel Aune	
Sally Brownfield	
Tom Davis	
Mark Doumit	
Brian Hatfield	
Dr. Tamara Holmlund	
John Ison	
Bill Monahan	
Scott Seaman	
Bill Taylor	
Chris Voigt	
Rhonda Weaver	
Cinnamon Bear	
Ignacio Marquez	





# FUNDERS

## 100,000+

Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Connell Family Fund

Employment Security Department

## 20,000-49,999

Dawkins Charitable Trust

Hancock Natural Resource Group

## 10,000-19,999

Grays Harbor Community Foundation

Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation

Green Diamond Resource Company

Sustainable Forestry Initiative

RealNetworks Foundation

Washington State SFI Committee

Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund

## 5,000-9,999

Washington Invasive Species Council • Hampton Lumber • Port Blakely • Pacific Mountain Workforce Development •

Sierra Pacific Industries • Washington State Potato Commission

## 1,000-4,999

Pullman School District • Nisqually Indian Tribe • Washington Friends of Farms & Forests • Community Foundation of South Puget Sound • Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group • Rayonier • Pacific West Timber Company • Fruit Growers Supply Company • Green Crow • Quillayute Valley School District • North Central Education Service District • Educational Service District 105 • Ocosta School District • Puyallup School District • Florence B. Kilworth Foundation • Valley School District • Stimson Lumber Co. • Bloedel Timberlands Development • Merrill & Ring • Olympic Resource Management • Squaxin Island Tribe • John Warjone

## 1-999

Aaron & Lauren Rodriguez • Abby Ruskey • Amanda Romero • Ben Price • Bill Monahan • Breanna Trygg • Brian & Deborah Bahs • Brian Hatfield • Candy Kristovich • Chad Mullen • Chuck Gibilisco • Cindy Mitchell • Cinnamon Bear • Debora Munguia • Dennis Sterner • Gareth Waugh • Gigi Williams & Steve Robinson • Hancock Forest Management • Hattie Osborne • Heather Druffel • Henry Smith • Jacqueline Danielle Desormier • Jean MacGregor • Jenny Rieke • Jessica Josephs • John Ison • John Maxwell • Julie Tennis • Karin Strelieff • Kathryn Kurtz • Katie Hatam • Kevin & Denise Buck • Kirsten York • Krista Larsen • Lisa Perry • Lorie Thompson • Lydia Houston • Lynne Ferguson • Margaret Tudor • Mark Doumit • Martin Fortin • Nancy Skeritt • Pam Farr • Paul & Gail Kramer • Port Gamble S'klallam Tribe • Ron & Heather Sisson • Scott Seaman • Stephanie Bishop • Suquamish Tribe • Susan Young • Tamara Holmlund • Tina Niels • William Taylor



# AN INVITATION

## SUPPORT

If you believe, like we do, that outdoor science education is critical for all students and the future, please consider donating to PEI. When you give to PEI, you directly support educators in building scientifically literate citizens. Consider:

- Making an individual donation
- A recurring donation
- Sponsorship

To learn more, contact [devo@pacifieducationinstitute.org](mailto:devo@pacifieducationinstitute.org)

## COLLABORATE

Community collaborators are critical to PEI programs. To partner with us on a new initiative or to provide Washington students with integrated, locally relevant, career connected learning, contact [info@pacifieducationinstitute.org](mailto:info@pacifieducationinstitute.org).

## LEARN

Looking for professional learning opportunities? Please visit our event calendar: [pacifieducationinstitute.org](http://pacifieducationinstitute.org).

