



PEI PACIFIC
EDUCATION
INSTITUTE

Real-World Science, Outdoors

2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT





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I loved completing an outdoor observation activity with my students. I can honestly say I have never seen them in this light. It was refreshing to see all their little perspectives and observations of the world around us. Definity will be diving into the FOOS [Fostering Outdoor Observations Skills] Guide next year for more activities, I loved how excited they were for science.

My first graders really do have sooo much to share and teach me when it comes to learning.

- 1st grade teacher

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

In the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year we achieved some incredible milestones. This was the year we prioritized capacity building, strategic programming and core value alignment. Some key achievements included:

- Became a program builder for Career Connect Washington expanding the Youth Engaged in Sustainable Systems (YESS) program to include new school districts, creating pathways to careers in the natural resource fields
- Helped OSPI implement goals of the state Environmental and Sustainability Literacy Plan by administering the Environmental Literacy Grant. Eighteen grants were awarded, bringing \$266,837 to school districts for outdoor learning area construction, equipment and supplies or professional learning.
- Participated in a multi-day equity training with board and staff to bring our values to everyday work and continue the journey of becoming an antiracist, anti-oppressive organization
- Supported the Outdoor School For All legislation through HB 2078 which brings \$10 million dollars to Outdoor School programming in Washington State
- Increased our operating budget and reserve account demonstrating fiscal responsibility
- Grew our organization by adding four new positions including a Multicultural Coordinator and Green Jobs Coordinator

PEI has proven that kids learn better when they go outside, and we're showing teachers how they can connect with local organizations, agencies and industries to get young people outdoors working on community-based projects. This benefits local economies, provides a cost-effective approach for school districts, and prepares students to be future stewards of our ecosystems and just and sustainable communities. PEI continues to deliver K12 science-based professional learning to educators across Washington. Our alignment with the local environment and community, state standards, and Since Time Immemorial makes each workshop unique and guides an invaluable teaching resource for helping students engage in climate and community-based science. We believe the best way to sustain our environment and economy is by educating our students to be scientifically literate and engaged in civic participation.

We are grateful for the engagement, collaboration and support by each of you.

Sincerely,



KATHRYN KURTZ

Executive Director



RON SHULTZ

Board President

VISION AND MISSION



VISION

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

MISSION

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



OUR VALUES



Equity

Equitable FieldSTEM learning that is culturally relevant for each student.

Collaboration, Diversity and Inclusion

Inclusive and collaborative education that considers all voices, including historically underrepresented populations, when making decisions and designing solutions to strengthen community.

Integrity

A cohesive education system that utilizes reliable and trusted scientific resources to build relationships that inspire trust.

Authenticity

Education that engages students in locally relevant, economic, social, and environmental questions, problems, issues, and opportunities. To ensure authenticity, this work is conducted in partnership with agencies, organizations and businesses in the community and brings student voice and civic participation into age-appropriate community decision making.



Stewardship

Education that encourages students to actively take responsibility for the vitality and sustainability of the environmental, economic, and social systems of their communities.

Creativity

Inspiring innovative, socially just, science-based thinking.

OUR REACH

73 workshops delivered

Professional learning focusing on building educator capacity to get students outdoors.

4 ELA Performance Tasks translated

Spanish versions allow dual language teachers to provide meaningful field experiences for Spanish-speaking students.

77 community partners

PEI values locally relevant, career-connected learning. Engaging with the community is essential to the FieldSTEM Model.

152 participating districts

Districts large and small value our programs.

37 counties reached

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

6,333 STEM clock hours

PEI is an OSPI-approved provider for Washington State Clock Hours for formal K-12 educators.

**1,568
EDUCATORS ENGAGED**

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY: PEI'S ROLE

PEI plays a critical role in advancing environmental literacy by connecting teachers, schools, and districts with community partner organizations who collaborate to develop outdoor-based field experiences. Through our workshops and ongoing support, teachers gain valuable resources and skills to get their students outdoors.

Community Collaborators Create Opportunities to Bring Students Outdoors



Across the state, PEI's dozens of community partners are making learning relevant for students in their regions, bringing science to life in tangible ways. They include land trusts, conservation districts, state agencies like the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Fish & Wildlife, and community-based nonprofits as well as natural resource companies.

PEI connects educators with community partners to arrange field experiences, worksite tours, classroom visits and long-term plans. For teachers, our FieldSTEM framework provides tools to integrate these experiences with core subjects and align them with Next Generation Science Standards. Community partner organizations benefit from our support by strengthening their work with schools and creating lasting relationships with districts.

PEI's Tools and Materials Help Teachers Get Students Outside

In the past year, PEI has delivered dozens of workshops for K-12 educators throughout the state, including five Schoolyard Investigations workshops, two of which were Spanish Dual Language, two Field Investigations workshops and two Fostering Outdoor Observation Skills workshops. Even throughout the pandemic, teachers have been using what they've learned at these workshops to connect students with the outdoor areas around their campuses, schools and districts. One example is at Mattawa School District. Mattawa is the third most densely-populated city in Washington State, with families stacked on top of each other amid a sea of orchards and farms.

With the help of PEI, teachers at Mattawa School District take a creative approach to getting students outdoors. This year, one teacher devised a PEI math performance task that required only a walk through the surrounding neighborhood.

Students made observations about different kinds of dwellings, estimated the number of people who lived in them and looked for patterns, then compared their predictions to real data back in the classroom. In addition to teaching real-world math skills, this simple activity created civic engagement among nine-year olds at no cost to the district. It's just one example of the many creative ways teachers are using PEI tools to get their students outside statewide.



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The outdoor education is essential. It is very tied to our equity work.

- Workshop participant

Implementing OSPI's Environmental Literacy Plan

In March, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) released the revised State Environmental and Sustainability Literacy Plan (ESLP) which aims to develop individual and collective understanding, skills, cultural awareness, motivation, and practice of environmental stewardship. The plan offers a set of four broad goals in these categories: 1) K-12 Education, 2) Educator and Administrator Professional Learning, 3) Community Engagement, and 4) Implementation/Funding. PEI participated in the revision process and is working through our FieldSTEM framework to support OSPI and the Environmental & Sustainability Education (ESE) community to implement the plan.

This spring, OSPI and PEI offered Environmental Literacy grants to fund school district projects aligned with the plan. Eighteen projects across the state were selected, increasing access to the outdoors for thousands of students. Districts moved forward with constructing outdoor learning spaces, purchasing outdoor equipment and supplies, and providing professional learning opportunities for teachers. Many projects specifically addressed cultural and physical accessibility issues for students. We expect to continue this work with OSPI and our ESE partners to further the goals of the ESLP.

Outdoor Learning Promotes Students' Physical, Mental and Emotional Health

Environmental educators have known for years that the benefits of getting kids outdoors go well beyond physical activity. Now a large and growing body of research backs up that theory and in Washington State, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is acting on that information.

Multiple studies have found that spending time outdoors improves physical and emotional health, boosts academic performance and enhances social skills among students of all ages. It also builds equity in student learning, promotes problem-solving and resilience and encourages a greater understanding of human impact in the natural world. As Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal puts it, "Environmental and Sustainability Education is an essential component of our students' K-12 educational experience."



2022 FIELDSTEM HONOREES



Dale Sweet

Teacher of the Year

Dale has worked with PEI since the beginning through many different projects and programs including Project CAT (Cougars and Teaching). He continues to attend PEI workshops and has even facilitated the Designing High Impact Field Experiences workshop to the absolute delight of all who attended. His experience, expertise, and continued willingness to grow make him the ideal candidate for FieldSTEM Teacher of the Year.



Riverview

District of the Year

The Riverview administrative team has made a commitment to create systemic change throughout the district. They worked with PEI to tailor professional learning for all K-5 teachers, with thoughtful preparation and consideration of their teachers. The administrative team is supportive, inclusive, and actively working to remove barriers to get students outside. Tiffany Ingham and Kristin Edlund have even volunteered to join classes themselves! Riverview also helped launch the Youth Engaged in Sustainable Systems (YESS) Restoration Ecology program. Riverview's team exemplifies the FieldSTEM model in action.



Waskowitz Environmental Leadership and Service (WELS)

School of the Year

In many ways, WELS has been a practicing FieldSTEM school for awhile. This year, they've really begun digging into the details of the FieldSTEM model to strengthen their practices. Their small, dedicated staff has not hesitated to adjust their instruction to provide even more meaningful, integrated experiences for their high school students.

Since WELS leadership and staff have committed to being a FieldSTEM school, they have gone above and beyond to provide their students with meaningful learning experiences. Principal Roberta McFarland has prioritized FieldSTEM professional development for the staff, and they always bring ideas, feedback, and enthusiasm to our sessions. Their dedication to the process has been an inspiration!



Katie Kosanke City of Spokane

Collaborator of the Year

Urban Forester with City of Spokane - Parks & Recreation Department, Katie has played a vital role from the beginning of PEI's project with On Track Academy's student urban tree canopy program in northeast Spokane. She helped create opportunities for students to step outside of their classrooms and be change-makers in their neighborhoods. Through Spokane Parks & Recreation Department, she provided matching funds and trees to be planted in low-canopy neighborhoods and played a critical role in the planning and coordination for a tree give-away and student symposia community event during spring 2022. PEI recognizes Katie for her positive energy, dependability, and "can-do" attitude.

These individuals and organizations exemplify our vision of promoting civic and scientific literacy by empowering people to make balanced, well-informed decisions for just and sustainable communities. It takes all of us to offer the support educators need to effectively implement FieldSTEM.

2022 FIELDSTEM HONOREES



Lynne Ferguson

FieldSTEM Champion

Lynne Ferguson's vision for supporting youth to have access to integrated, community-based, outdoor learning was the driving force behind the creation of PEI – and the origination of what has come to be called FieldSTEM. Lynne led the education work of the Washington Forest Protection Association before becoming the first Executive Director of PEI, a position she held from 2003 to 2010. She is a master at getting the right people into a room to make the changes in education that put student and teacher needs first. We are honored to walk in the footsteps of this educational leader.



Rep. Alicia Rule (District 42)

Legislator of the Year

Representative Rule has a passion for environmental education. During the 2022 session, she led the effort to pass House bill 2078, the Outdoor School For All legislation. This funding has allowed Washington to begin statewide work to support Outdoor School for every 5th or 6th grader. Rep. Rule also secured funding for environmental education programming in Whatcom county. Her understanding of the value of nature-based experiences to support the mental and emotional health of youth make her a strong supporter of Field-based experiences for students.



Rep. Alex Ybarra (District 13)

Legislator of the Year

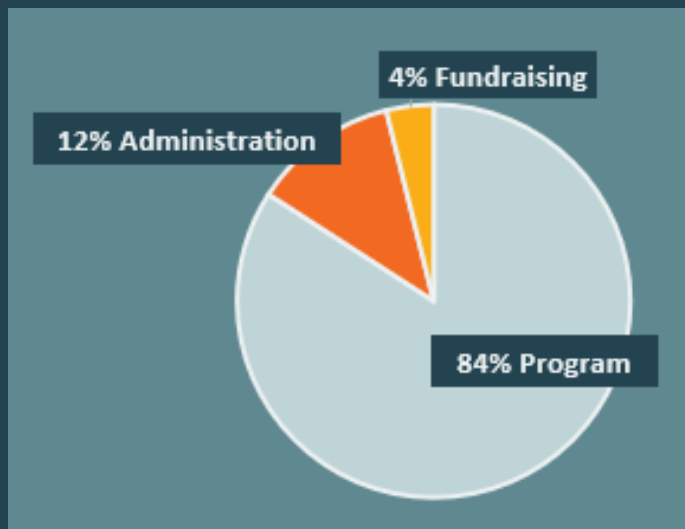
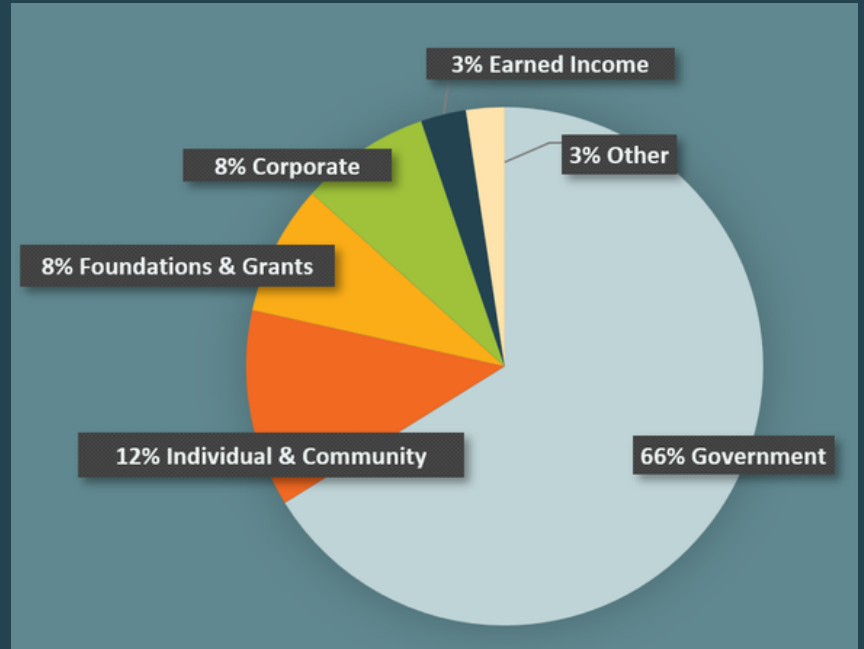
Representative Ybarra's strong support for science-based natural resource and environmental education paired with his support for increasing equity through dual language and rural programs has earned him the FieldSTEM Legislator of the year. Having served on the school board for Quincy, the Commission on Hispanic Affairs and with his current role with the Center for Sustainable Infrastructure, he is an ideal FieldSTEM champion in his role as the ranking member of the House Education Committee.



OUR FINANCES

REVENUE

Government Grants	1,234,861
Individual & Community Giving	229,832
Foundations & Nonprofit Giving	151,988
Corporate Giving	151,850
Earned Income	52,877
Other	44,763
Total Revenue	1,866,172



EXPENSES

Programs	1,250,384
Administration	178,130
Fundraising	57,726
Total Expenses	1,486,241

OUR PEOPLE

Board of Directors

Lisa Perry	<i>Sierra Pacific Industries</i>
Tim Garchow	<i>WA State School Directors Assoc.</i>
Gareth Waugh	<i>Port Blakely</i>
Ron Shultz	<i>WA Conservation Commission</i>
Mike Nelson	<i>WA Assoc. of School Administrators</i>
Cinnamon Bear	<i>Manulife</i>
Justin Parker	<i>NW Indian Fisheries Commission</i>
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Scott Seaman	<i>Association of WA School Principals</i>
Hanford McCloud	<i>Nisqually Tribe</i>
Bill Taylor	<i>Taylor Shellfish</i>
Rhonda Weaver	<i>Comcast</i>

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Katie Hatam	<i>Program Manager</i>
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Lourdes Flores	<i>Multicultural Coordinator</i>
Heather Spalding	<i>Green Jobs Coordinator</i>
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Karen Lippy	<i>West Sound Coordinator</i>
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Amy Dawley	<i>Eastern WA Coordinator</i>
Cindy Haverkamp	<i>East Sound-South Coor.</i>
Tressa Arbow	<i>East Sound-North Coor.</i>



OUR FUNDERS

100,000+

Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction · Connell Family Fund

20,000-99,999

Battelle/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory · Dawkins Charitable Trust · Employment Security Department · Hancock Natural Resource Group · Hampton Lumber · The Russell Family Foundation

10,000-19,999

Career Connect Washington · Community Foundation of South Puget Sound · David Nunes · Grays Harbor Community Foundation · Green Diamond Resource Company · Key Bank · Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust · Washington Department of Natural Resources

5,000-9,999

Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation · Green Diamond Resource Company · The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation · Puyallup Watershed Initiative · Port Blakely · Rayonier · Sierra Pacific Industries · Stocker Foundation · Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) · Washington State SFI Committee

1,000-4,999

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies · American Forest Resources Council · Edith Sonne Hall · Florence B. Kilworth Foundation · Fruit Growers Supply Company · Hancock Forest Management · Hydrogen LLC · John Warjone · Kitsap Community Foundation · Merrill & Ring · Nisqually Indian Tribe · Olympia Federal Savings · Peter Goldman and Martha Kongsgaard · Robert and Emily Meier · Skokomish Tribe · Squaxin Island Tribe · Stimson Lumber Co. · Suquamish Tribe · Susan Kurtz · The McGregor Company · The Rayonier Advanced Materials Foundation · Tulalip Tribe · Washington Friends of Farms & Forests · Washington State Department of Ecology · WestRock

1-999

Alan Walker · Amazon Smile · American Forest Management · Amy Bell & Mike Woodin · Arbaugh & Associates, Inc. · Association of Washington Business · Aaron & Lauren Rodriguez · Betty Fujikado · Bill Monahan · Brian & Carol Barker · Brian & Deborah Babs · Leslie Druffel · Brian Hatfield · Brianna Widner · Bridget Huennekens · Buck Vandersteen · Catherine Taylor · Celia Nightingale · Chad Mullen · Chuck Lennox · Cindy Haverkamp · Cindy Mitchell · Cindy Zehnder · Court and Kelly Stanley · Craig Voegelé · David & Christy Nicandri · Dean Takko · Dixie Reimer · Doug Kennedy · Doug Levy · Eileen Cody · Eric Barkman · Erika Bjorkquist · Forest Resources Association · Fred Meyer Rewards · Friends of Santos Surplus · Gareth Waugh · Georgia Forestry Association · Gordon & Jacklyn Bradley · Hattie Osborne · Irene Martin · Jake Fey · Jane Nelson · Jason Callahan · Jean MacGregor · Jessica Josephs · Joel and Helen Hein · John Ison · John McMahon · Julie Fry · Julie Tennis · Karen Lippy · Kathryn Hamilton & Steve Wang · Kathryn Kurtz · Katie Hatam · Kelli Linville · Kenneth Osborn · Kent & Karen Wheeler · Kevin & Denise Buck · Lara Tukarski & Brandon Austin · Larry Beutler · Lawson Fite · Leslie Druffel · Lisa Perry · Lourdes Flores · Margaret Tudor · Martin Fortin · Mary Kanikeberg · Mindie Reule · Norm Schaaf · O'Neill Pine Company · Patricia Pich · Patricia O'Brien · Patricia Otto · Paul & Gail Kramer · Paul Wing · Phillip & Marcia Doumit · RL Smith Logging · Randall & Carol Johnson · Rebecca Bogard · Rebecca Graham · Rhonda Kennedy · Rich Gordon · Rick Reynolds · Robert Bass · Robert Moore · Ron Shultz · Scott Seaman · Steve Barnowe-Meyer · Stephen & Debbie Rowe · Steve Wang & Kathryn Hamilton · Susan Young · Tamara Holmlund · TC&I Chinook · The Brodie Company · Three Trees Consulting · Thomas & Anne Sparks · Tim Garchow · Timothy Boyd · Tressa Arbow · Victor Musselman · Virginia Beekman · Wendy Whitmer · William & Cynthia Faubion · 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 communities.

Consider:

- Making an individual donation
- A recurring donation
- Sponsorship

To learn more, contact devo@pacificeducationinstitute.org.

COLLABORATE

Community collaborators are essential 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@pacificeducationinstitute.org.

LEARN

Looking for professional learning opportunities? Please visit our event calendar: pacificeducationinstitute.org

