

MEET THE BOARD



Leslie Druffel

Outreach Director,
The McGregor Company

Why PEI

My experience as the recruiter for The McGregor Company and supporter of getting more agriculture-focused learning into the K-12 system made joining the board an easy choice. **PEI is a great fit because it allowed me to have an impact on classrooms across the state.**

Connection Between Professional Life and PEI

I'm a board member of community college ag programs and the state's Agricultural & Natural Resource Center of Excellence. I've worked with workforce training boards and participated in some of their community outreach efforts and I've been an FFA competition judge at the local, district and state levels. **When I speak with teachers and administrators I'm now able to share ways they can incorporate agriculture without having to change their whole schedules.**

Memorable Moments

Watching [Central Washington FieldSTEM Coordinator] Megan Rivard's presentations over Zoom has helped me understand the best way to promote agriculture and natural resource sciences in the classroom. During the FieldSTEM Celebration awards, it was so moving and rewarding to **hear from students who are learning about forestry and how everything fits together, and from the instructors who are so excited about seeing that 'aha' moment in their students.**

Looking Ahead

I'm looking forward to adding more agriculture-related courses and activities to PEI's program list, expanding eastern WA participation, and providing some on-site educator field days in Colfax with The McGregor Company's Research Director.



"Working with PEI keeps me grounded and conscious of how to bring agriculture into classrooms in a way that isn't a burden or added content where educators have to sacrifice some core lesson."

