

January 2021



Report  
Highlights:  
**WEST SOUND  
STEM NETWORK**

West Sound STEM  
Regional Summit

STEM Café: "Electrical  
Engineering"

Storytime STEM

On the Horizon...

March 17, Cryptography  
STEM Café

February 11, NASA  
Artemis Mission  
STEM Café



West Sound STEM Regional Summit:  
Pathways to the Future

West Sound STEM Network (WSSN) hosted a Regional Summit on December 9th via Zoom. Senator Maria Cantwell provided a video greeting and Senator Christine Rolfes was the keynote speaker.

- The opening panel, "The Importance of STEM Partnerships," discussed strategies to close the talent gap and explored how to better prepare students for regional career opportunities through STEM partnerships.
- The "Learning and Leading for Equity in Times of Change" panel conversations focused on leadership actions to recognize and mitigate institutional and organizational injustice.
- Systemic and financial barriers and solutions to credential attainment were addressed via a "Breaking Down Financial and Systemic Barriers to Attainment" final panel of the day.

Attendance was high with over 100 attendees representing education, business, non-profits, military, government, tribal, and community organizations.

**BATTELLE INVESTS IN  
WEST SOUND STEM  
NETWORK!**

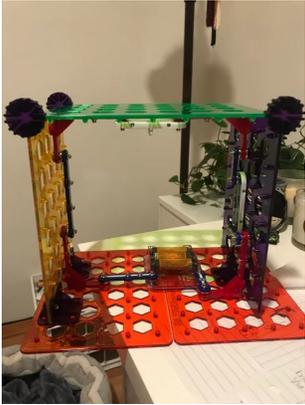
Dr. Steven Ashby of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and Julie Turner of the Department of Energy, attended the summit to announce Battelle's commitment of \$75,000 to support STEM education opportunities closely connected to its work in coastal and marine sciences.

The WSSN and PNNL partnership will create a Teacher-Scientist Partnership program. The program will help develop the future coastal and marine energy workforce needed by connecting middle and high school science teachers with real-world science challenges in these areas.

Both groups are excited to foster educational excellence and contribute to developing the next generation of STEM leaders in Washington State.

Attendees expressed positive feedback for the panel discussions and requests to continue the conversation. Look for an announcement of the next summit in early 2021.

# STEM Café: Electrical Engineering



Teacher-built house with functional 3-D circuits

West Sound STEM Network (WSSN) partnered with Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) and NUWC Division, Keyport to host two virtual Electrical Engineering STEM Cafés on October 27th and November 16th. Snap Circuit kits were shipped to teachers to use during the Café and in remote instruction. Teachers explored how electricity travels and powers their home.

Participants learned how energy transfer, fuses and circuit breakers work and built a house with real, working 3-D circuits.

Participants explored everything from circuitry, security systems, dimmer switches and automatic lights to alarms, motion detectors, fan speeds, generators and much more. Terri Gierke, a teacher from Peace Lutheran School said, "I really like the questioning that automatically comes up while doing this engineering. My grandson couldn't stop trying something new to see what would work. Just the exploration is so stimulating for minds, so inspiring!"

As with all STEM Cafés, this professional development opportunity was grounded in Washington State Learning Standards.



## Storytime STEM

PreK-2 educators from around the region joined national Early Learning STEM experts for a fun-filled two-day workshop designed to show them how they could introduce early learners to STEM with Storytime STEM.

Through a grant from Washington STEM, Storytime STEM kits were provided along with training to all participants. During the workshops, teachers engaged in Storytime STEM, integrated math and science with language arts, networked with participants and explored virtual strategies to share Storytime STEM

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Corinne Beach (PSNS) and Sam De Lano (NUWC Division, Keyport), STEM Outreach Coordinators, facilitate "Electrical Engineering"



West Sound STEM Network members