

# April/ May 2021



## West Sound STEM Network

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## WEST SOUND STEM NETWORK

### On the Horizon...

Data Deep Dive:  
School Districts,  
May 11th

NESSP Cohort:  
NASA, May 12th

Astronomy STEM  
Cafes, May 17th  
(Secondary)  
& 20th (K-5)

Hidden Figures Book  
Study, May 18th  
& June 15th

COSTAR Cohort:  
Computer Science,  
May 18th

Controls Technology  
Externship, June  
4th & 5th

Code.org Workshop,  
June 24th & 25th

COSTAR Summer  
Workshop, June  
28th & 29th

NESSP Summer  
Workshop, June 30th  
& July 1st



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## STEM Like ME!™ Explore

The next generation of virtual STEM Like ME!™ Explore days were piloted this month with Central Kitsap School District's sixth grade science classes. The new sessions are delivered to teachers as a turnkey career connected learning event. 579 students in 28 classes from the four middle schools were introduced to exciting STEM careers.

WSSN launched the STEM Like ME!™ Explore program in person mid-March 2020.

The program pairs STEM professionals (Mentors) with small

groups of middle school students. Students engage in a hands-on activity designed by their Mentor and some Q&A time to explore how the Mentor found their career pathway.

2021-22 sessions feature recorded interview clips from Mentors, fun career facts and relevant figures and a trivia-type team game



for students to play based on the video content. Students were highly engaged and enthusiastic, participating for the full 45 minutes, often staying late to ask questions or to shoot for just a few more points from the trivia game. Teachers gave a tremendous amount of feedback for the program as well. CK Teacher Michelle Simmons wrote of her classroom experience, "The presentation was great! I love that you were able to include local people. Thank you so much."

## Bridge Challenge 2021

WSSN's annual Bridge Building Challenge went virtual this year!

Bridge Challenge instructions went out to school districts across the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas requesting students send in their bridges for a 7-hour live-stream event.



Wayne Jordheim (left), engineer from NUWC Keyport and Jenna McGrath (right), engineer at PSNS&IMF. Photo credit: Brian Kilpatrick, PSNS&IMF Visual Information Specialist

The end result was a record-setting selection of 188 amazing bridges, designed and built by individual students! A dedicated team of PSNS & IMF and NUWC-Keyport personnel volunteered to present, judge and livestream the competition. Corinne Beach, event organizer and PSNS & IMF STEM Coordinator, said, "Our team had a great time testing all the bridges! It was super cool to see so many different designs and construction given they all had the same instructions to begin with." The edited version of the Challenge can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM1900UGzSo>.

## Outstanding Partner Award

Olympic College President Marty Cavalluzzi was recognized as an Outstanding STEM Partner last week at the West Sound STEM Network's Regional Summit: Pathways to the Future on April 23rd.

As Dr. Cavalluzzi was presented with the award via Zoom last week, Dr. Kareen Borders, WSSN Executive Director, praised Cavalluzzi as a leader who *walks the walk*. "He's been and continues to be a stellar partner within our network by supporting K-12, supporting higher education, supporting apprenticeships, supporting career launch, and making sure all of these systems communicate and are inclusive for better outcomes," she said.

U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer, praised Cavalluzzi's impact on the region. "Olympic College under your leadership has been a place where diversity is seen

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as a strength and you've worked tirelessly to create a safe and welcoming environment where students from all backgrounds can thrive," he said. He cited the college's innovative partnerships with Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and the efforts to bolster student success in STEM through the college's Math, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) program as examples of the college's work.

Dr. Marty Cavalluzzi



Cavalluzzi said he was humbled and noted the entire college made his receipt of the award possible. I'm simply the person accepting it. The college's partnership with West Sound STEM is just beginning. I see so many ways we can leverage our partnerships for internships, and careers, grants, events and experiences."

The summit featured opening remarks by Washington STEM CEO, Angela Jones JD and a keynote by Congressman Derek Kilmer. Also featured was a special video message from Dr. John B. King, former U.S. Secretary of Education and current CEO of The Education Trust.

## Not Just Hammers & Nails

In partnership with Kristi Grassman of the Washington State Construction Center for Excellence, WSSN conducted a virtual, interactive, STEM Café, "The Building and Construction Trades." Teachers were able to explore connections to high demand careers in the trades through interactive design challenges as well as a panel discussion with industry professionals. The panel included women in the industry who spoke to the unique challenges women face in non-traditional occupations and the benefits of their career choices. Culturally responsive instructional strategies and best practices were shared for supporting students in synchronous/asynchronous distance learning while utilizing STEM resources to strengthen energy transfer knowledge and application, engineering design and solutions to societal problems.

Teacher Sherry Oikawa-Kennedy from Peninsula School District recounted how much fun she had with the measuring task using a measuring wheel and said she already had plans to challenge her own students "to measure their house or backyard, neighborhood

park, a basketball court or playground—anything or anywhere that sounds fun!" Sherry noted that she could easily take the exercise even further by asking her students to "rebuild" items or places they've measured in virtual environments like the game "Minecraft." "I didn't know much about construction careers, but now I can pass on more effective information during career exploration."



## STEM Notes...

Welcome to our newest members, Palmer Scholars and Clover Park Technical College! We look forward to a collaborative future dedicated to expanding STEM careers and family-wage jobs to our region.

Dr. Michael Watson and his team at Northwest Washington Family Medicine Residency (NWFMR) are collaborating with WSSN to offer virtual discussions with resident physicians to high school students. Ten regional districts are in the queue to host residents for conversation and Q&A in the high demand field of healthcare.

To accommodate growing registrations, additional Cryptography (featuring use of math in automation) and Tides and Currents STEM Cafés were scheduled last month.

WSSN hosted four FAFSA/WASFA information sessions on April 21st and 28th and organized a Financial Aid Advising Day developed in partnership with Chimacum, Port Townsend and Quillayute Valley school districts.

WSSN will offer the next virtual STEM professional learning opportunity, Hidden Figures Book Study: STEM Perseverance, on May 18, 2021 from 3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. and June 15, 2021 from 3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. The Café examines historical and current racial and gender inequity and explores NASA's use of technology.

Panel sessions at the April 23rd West Sound STEM Network Regional Summit: Pathways to the Future included: "Building Pathways to the Future: The Importance of STEM Partnerships," "Learning and Leading for Equity in Times of Change," and "Leveraging Innovations from 2020."

WSSN and the Washington State Patrol are partnering for a virtual family event. Students interested in careers with Washington State Patrol can engage with panelists live on May 26th, 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Contact WSSN to register!



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West Sound STEM Network Members