

Wendy Malloy
Pacific Science Center
Seattle, WA
(206) 443-2879
wendy_malloy@pacsci.org

**Washington State LASER – a program of Pacific Science Center –
Announces Recipients of the 2008 Science Education Advocate Awards**

SEATTLE – Washington State LASER (Washington State Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform), with support from The Boeing Company, announced the recipients of the 2008 Science Education Advocate Awards.

The Science Education Advocate awards go to five individuals, organizations, and/or project teams who exhibited outstanding advocacy for science education in the state of Washington by promoting the importance of science education among the general public and/or the education system.

“Awardees are being recognized for their advocacy efforts – not necessarily their work as science educators. We want to stress how important strong community support and advocacy is to developing science literacy in our state,” said Dennis Schatz, Vice President for Education at Pacific Science Center and Co-Director for LASER.

Efforts at all levels of science education - including early learner, K-12, vocational, undergraduate, graduate, adult, and informal/public science education - were eligible for consideration.

The five awardees receive \$5,000 each to be awarded to the not-for-profit organization or public education entity of their choice for use in its efforts on behalf of science education. The monetary reward as well as funding for the awards process was generously provided by the Boeing Company.

Recipients will be recognized on Wednesday, May 21, 11:30-3:30 p.m. at the Washington Athletic Club in Seattle (The Washington Athletic Club is located on the corner of 6th Avenue and Union Street. The Club's main entrance is on 6th). This event includes lunch, an awards ceremony, and a forum with the winners to discuss how best to engage new and more diverse participants and investors in science and math education. This event is sponsored by Washington State Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER), City Club, and The Boeing Company.

Recipients will also be recognized at local awards ceremonies to highlight their achievements among their peers and within their communities.

Individual Awards

Dr. Terry Bergeson

Bergeson is Superintendent of Public Instruction for Washington State.

Washington state is viewed by many nationally as a leader in science education which, in no small part, due to the countless hours Bergeson has spent advocating for science education.

-More-

From the beginning of Washington's efforts to respond to goals set forth in 1993 by House Bill 1209, Bergeson has helped the science leaders in the state to establish standards, assessment, accountability systems and the technical assistance and professional development programs needed to help all students attain science literacy. She has lead and garnered the support from key government officials to pass critical and vital legislation that supports science instruction in the state.

The recipient of Dr. Bergeson's award money will be announced shortly.

Gary Masten

Masten is Superintendent of Highland School District and Chairman of the Educational Service District 105 Science Education Cooperative.

Instrumental in the formation of the South Central Leadership and Assistance in Science Education Reform (LASER) Alliance, Masten's on-going leadership has made this alliance a model for others to follow. He holds a vision for what science education needs to look like for all students and as its advocate involves himself in the events, learns what it is like in the classroom, and lobbies and makes decisions for the benefit of the entire region – always with his eye on the most important target of all – students.

Masten's \$5,000 donation will be awarded to Highland School District #203.

Rod Proctor

Proctor is a semi-retired consultant (Technology Management).

Proctor has been actively involved with the Washington Council of American Technology Associates for more than 30 years. He was chairman of the council and has served on the Government Affairs and Education Committee for most of that time.

He has lobbied to the Washington State Congress on behalf of math, science and engineering education. He participated in the development of the math and science standards, given talks to Rotary and other community groups on the importance of inquiry-based science and is an active volunteer for the Seattle Public Schools.

Proctor's \$5,000 donation will be awarded to AEA Education Foundation.

Sally Goetz Shuler

Shuler is Executive Director of the National Science Resources Center (NSRC).

As the leader of the NSRC, Shuler led the development of a science education reform model that has revolutionized science education programs across the state. This model brought coherence and direction as Washington state science leaders worked to collaborate on effective science education for all students.

Leading by example, Shuler has leveraged business and government leaders to become partners in the reform efforts, recommended that Washington state be included in the National Research Council's *Rising above the Gathering Storm* report and has sought every opportunity to showcase the work of Washington State Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER). This ongoing advocacy has brought additional support back to the state.

-More-

Shuler's \$5,000 donation will be awarded to Smithsonian Institution."I also plan to use the award funds provided by Boeing to support the NSRC internship program for inspiring the next generation of leaders working to improve K-16 science education," said Shuler.

Organization Awards

Washington State Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA)

MESA is a program that brings together school districts, businesses, and colleges/universities to support student achievement in math, engineering and science for underrepresented groups.

Washington State MESA is a leader in education reform to promote academic success and ultimately college graduation for underrepresented students. The program has been singularly focused in bringing the challenges facing Native American, African American, Latino and females in science and math to the light and worked diligently to eliminate barriers. It serves as a catalyst and model for educational excellence and equity.

Washington State MESA's \$5,000 donation will be awarded to Tacoma MESA.

More information regarding the awardees is at:

<http://www.wastatelaser.org/awards/archive.asp>.

Washington State LASER is a private public partnership working with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) as well as with the National Science Resource Center (NSRC) which is a non-profit science education organization sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute and the National Academies. It receives financial support from OSPI, the Boeing Company, Battelle and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Agilent Technologies Foundation, Merck, WaMu and Intel.

For more information about Washington State LASER and the Science Education Advocate Awards, please visit <http://www.wastatelaser.org>.

-0-

Pacific Science Center inspires a lifelong interest in science, mathematics and technology by engaging diverse communities through interactive and innovative exhibits and programs. Pacific Science Center began as the United States Science Pavilion during the 1962 Seattle World's Fair. Millions came to explore the wonders of science during the World's Fair and upon the closing ceremonies, the Science Pavilion was given new life as the private, not-for-profit Pacific Science Center, becoming the first U.S. museum founded as a science and technology center. For more information about Pacific Science Center, please call (206) 443-2001 or visit the web site at www.pacificsciencecenter.org. Pacific Science Center is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and relies on admissions, memberships, and donations to continue our educational mission, programs, and exhibits.

###