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What do we really mean by STEM Education?

Join Pacific Science Center and top minds in education and scientific research for a special roundtable discussion on May 3

SEATTLE –Pacific Science Center and Washington State Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) are proud to announce the winners of the prestigious 2010 Science Champions: Science Education Advocate Award, a premier competition among top contenders who exhibited outstanding advocacy for science education in the state of Washington.

“Science education is at the heart of Pacific Science Center’s mission,” said Dennis Schatz, Senior Vice President for Strategic Programs at Pacific Science Center and Co-Director for Washington State LASER. “As part of that effort, the Science Center is very active in Washington State LASER.”

What does STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Education really mean? Is it about strong programs in each subject area or an integration of the topics -- or something in-between?

Please join Pacific Science Center, Washington State LASER, City Club, and The Boeing Company on May 3 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Rainier Square (third floor atrium) in Seattle for a special roundtable discussion about STEM Education and preparing our youth to be competitive in this technology-based society. The panel members, all 2009-2010 recipients of the Science Champions: Science Education Advocate Award, will discuss their perspectives on STEM Education.

The recipients are:

Individual Awards

- Dr. Peter Dallas Finch – Assistant Superintendent for West Valley School District, Yakima
- Daniel Grünbaum – Associate Professor of Biological Oceanography at the University of Washington, Seattle
- Stamatis Vokos – Professor of Physics at Seattle University, Seattle

Organization Awards

- Heritage High School Energy Smart, Evergreen School District, Vancouver
- Science Education Partnership, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle

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As a vital catalyst in creating a scientifically literate community, Pacific Science Center and its partners are working to make science education a priority among U.S. schools and in the state of Washington. The Washington State LASER program, a partnership of Pacific Science Center, Battelle and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), assists school districts statewide with implementing an inquiry-based program to give our children the scientific tools they need for whatever the future brings.

The Science Education Advocate Awards were created by partners in the Washington State LASER program to recognize and raise public awareness of individuals, groups and project teams who have helped further the cause of science education in our state. Efforts at all levels of science education – including early learner, K-12, vocational, undergraduate, graduate, adult, and informal/public science education – are eligible for consideration.

The five recipients received \$5,000 each to be awarded to the not-for-profit organization or 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.

For more information about Washington State LASER and the Science Education Advocate Awards, please visit wastatelaser.org/_awards/

This event is sponsored by Washington LASER, Pacific Science Center, City Club, and The Boeing Company. To register, please go to seattlecityclub.org/

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Pacific Science Center (pacificsciencecenter.org) is an independent, not-for-profit educational institution that inspires lifelong interest in science, math and technology by engaging diverse communities through interactive and innovative exhibits and programs.

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