



Working to create critical thinkers and empower the next generation of innovators.

**LASER eNewsletter**

**April 2016**

We have had a busy spring here at Washington State LASER. Our convening of Science Fellows from all across the state in early March was a resounding success, and preparations for our *STEM Education Leadership Institute* in June are moving along swiftly. The LASER Advisory Committee met in late March and learned about ongoing work in our Alliances, as well as contributing their expertise and vision for our future work. The impact of the STEM Institute is clearly evident in the report from Broad View Elementary you'll find below. I am very excited to share this news with you and look forward to an engaging summer of activity.

Ann McMahan  
Washington State LASER Co-Director

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**Did You Know?**

Learn about new certification requirements for teachers in Washington state by viewing helpful videos on the Washington Education Association (WEA) [website](#).

**Transition To New Washington State Science Learning Standards (WSSLS): Integrating the Three Dimensions of the WSSLS Part II**



Washington State Science Fellows joined Washington State LASER Alliance Directors and Regional Science Coordinators for our most impactful Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) implementation event yet, *Integrating the Three Dimensions of WSSLS Part II*.

For two days, national experts from Achieve and Horizons Education Consulting led 160 participants through activities to critically evaluate curricula using the Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQuIP) Rubric.

Participants spent time learning in both regional and grade band groups, and were able to share their expertise in implementing the Washington State Science Learning Standards during our *Peer Pilfering Party*. They will implement their learning in 81 school districts and community partnerships across Washington.

*Integrating the Three Dimensions of WSSLS Part II* was made possible with support from Battelle and OSPI. Washington State LASER's next NGSS implementation and Washington State Science Fellows events will be held in fall of 2016. [Keep following us to learn more.](#)



## From Our Colleagues:

### Broad View Elementary Celebrates STEM

Broad View Elementary School (Oak Harbor School District) rapidly transformed after its experience at last year's *STEM Education Leadership Institute*.

In early February, the school unveiled its first *Family STEM Night*. STEM stations around the school encouraged students to create STEM learning experience with their families, and highlighted an engineering curriculum shared at the Institute by another school. The library transformed into a Makers Space and the computer lab evolved into a haven for coding. The school's family liaison partner (who also attended the Institute) recruited over 50 volunteers to help with the evening, many of whom work in STEM related fields. The families that attended provided amazing feedback. *Family STEM Night* was also featured in the [local newspaper](#). Because of its overwhelming success, Broad View Elementary School plans to make *Family STEM Night* an annual event.

Next year, Broad View will be holding *STEMtastic Friday* once a month. On this Friday, each class will do a STEM activity. Community partners will support and enrich these activities, which the teachers are also excited about.

In addition to providing expertise in STEM teaching and learning implementation, attending the Institute helped Broad View catalyze the enthusiasm of their family liaison partner and further engage their community. We look forward to seeing this engagement develop even further.

The 2015 STEM Education Leadership Institute was made possible by financial support from The Boeing Company, Battelle, Carolina Biological, and Future of Flight Foundation, and in-kind support from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Operated by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy), Pacific Science Center and Educational Service District 123.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the Institute.

## From Our LASER Alliances: Computer Science Workshops for Educators

Under the auspices of the [Mid-Columbia STEM Education Collaboratory](#), the Southeast Washington LASER Alliance has partnered with education experts from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Code.org and Educational Service District 123 to provide free computer science professional development for K-12 educators in their region. The local computer science workshops have included building awareness at the Alliance's STEM Leadership Network and developing expertise through code.org's [CS Fundamentals](#) course workshop for elementary teachers. Sessions are led by facilitators from the Collaboratory's "Computing the Future" project managed by Ann Wright-Mockler, of PNNL's Office of STEM Education. Ann and PNNL materials scientist Elizabeth Stephens, are trained facilitators for Code.org's CS Fundamentals course. Southeast Washington LASER Alliance Co-Director, Peggy Willcuts; Regional Science Coordinator, Georgia Boatman and two Southeast Washington LASER Alliance teachers will join the code.org facilitation team as the efforts expand to include code.org workshops for middle school teachers on the [CS in Algebra](#) and [CS in Science](#) courses. More information on the code.org courses can be found at <https://code.org/educate>.



## Upcoming Washington State LASER Events

June 27-July 1 - 2016 *STEM Education Leadership Institute*

Washington State LASER is Co-Led by:



Funding for Washington State LASER provided by:



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