WASHINGTON STATE LASER

CO-LED BY PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER AND PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY

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

LASER eNewsletter **December 2016**

Greetings!

As 2016 winds down I am pleased to reflect on some significant successes here at Washington State LASER. We held two gatherings of over 400 Washington State Science Fellows, one in March and one in October, and reached schools in every corner of the state. Our *STEM Education Leadership Institute* in June was well-attended, and we have heard how transformative it has been for participating schools. Our Alliances have served thousands of teachers, helping support the Next Generation Science Standards and prepare our students for college and career. The work continues in 2017 with our STEAM Power day, a second session on Assessment, and the next iteration of the STEM Leadership Institute. Join us as we build on our partnerships and grow new ones in the coming year.

Jacob Clark Blickenstaff
Co-Director, Washington State LASER
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Did You Know?

There will be 740,000 job openings in Washington in the next five years. State job growth over this period is expected to be nearly three times the national average. Learn about new pathways to employment for Washington's students at Washington Kids for Washington Jobs.

2017 STEM Education Leadership Institute - June 26-30

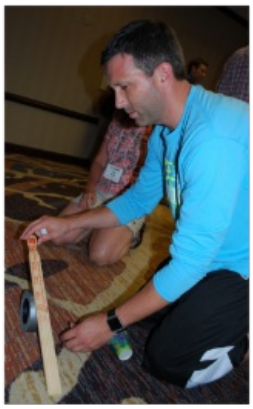
Don't miss your chance to apply for the *2017 STEM Education Leadership Institute*. This residential, professional learning program will prepare schools, school districts, and regional leadership teams to launch their science, technology, engineering, and math-focused (STEM) efforts. After attending the Institute, participants will have the skills to:

- Use current education research and strategies to effectively integrate STEM and computer science into educational programming.
- Build students' abilities, understandings, and skills in science & engineering practices, problem-solving, and technological literacy; address the achievement gap, and prepare for college & career.
- Meaningfully integrate the Next Generation Science Standards adopted in 2013 as the Washington State Science Standards and other state standards into STEM learning.

Applications are due on Friday, April 1 2017. Learn more and apply.

Questions about the Institute? Not sure if it's the right choice for your team? Join us for a webinar on **Monday, January 9 from 4 to 5 p.m.** to learn about the content of the Institute and to hear about its benefits from past participants.

We will be using GoTo Meeting for this webinar. Log on from an electronic device here or join us be phone - 1 (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 424-056-413
If you are unable to attend this webinar, visit our website afterwards to view it at your convenience.


STEAM Power: Turn On The Heat With Creativity & Innovation In Teaching - Saturday, February 11, 2017

Pacific Science Center proudly partners with the Museum of Pop Culture (formerly EMP Museum) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Visitor Center to bring teachers *STEAM Power*, a day dedicated to inspiring and supporting educators in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math). Take part in your choice of two, 2-hour, skill-based workshops at these three Seattle Center area venues, a stimulating full lunch keynote and tasty snacks throughout the day. These workshops are designed especially for educators addressing a broad spectrum of STEAM learning, highlighting key topics from each organization's specific areas of expertise, taught by each organization's staff and professional educators. This year we are excited to offer tracks tailored to both elementary and secondary educators.

The cost to attend *STEAM Power* is $55, and includes seven Washington state clock hours. Secure your spot and first choice of sessions soon. Visit Pacific Science Center's website for more information and to register.

Assessing the NGSS: Rethinking Formative & Summative Assessments

Washington State LASER's ten Alliances convened in Spokane to plan the next phase of implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) which focuses on formative and summative assessment. In addition to working on regional plans for how to introduce this next phase, Alliances immersed themselves in a sample 3-Dimensional classroom activity, learned about the statewide assessment plan and had a :Peer Pilfering Party" to discover successes and best practices from other Alliances and regions.

This focus on assessment is in support of the Washington State Science Learning Standards implementation timeline from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). More information on the timeline can be found here and current information on Assessment can be found here.

The Council of State Science Supervisors (CSSS)

Across the country states are adopting or adapting the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Some states have standards revision and adoption cycles and, as they prepare for their respective adoptions, they have been using *A Framework for K12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts and Core Ideas* to help their science educators understand the shifts that will occur in instruction, assessment, and learning materials as a result of 3 dimensional standards. Many organizations nationally are working together to provide leadership, professional learning, and newly developed resources with science educators.

One organization leading work in supporting states as they adopt or adapt new standards is CSSS. CSSS is the only professional science organization whose members have direct accountability to state education agencies. Within their own jurisdictions, each of these supervisors plays a key role in directing efforts at improving school science and to ensure excellence and equity in science education. Council members closely collaborate with each other through a lively listserv and at their annual conference. They frequently share resources that are developed in their own states and leverage each other's state leadership efforts. The Council's overall goal and current work is to support states with the standards implementation by providing access to each other's work and to be sounding boards for problems of practice. This year, Ellen Ebert is serving as president of this national organization.

The Council is proud to have been a key partner in the Building Capacity for State Science Education (BCSSE). BCSSE brought science supervisors and teams from all 50 states to several convening's focused on the vision and shifts described in *A Framework for K12 Science Education*. Washington State LASER was a member of the WA state BCSSE team and not only participated in BCSSE meetings, but was a frequent contributor and presenter. Currently, CSSS is a partner with UC Boulder and UW LIFE Center on a grant to study state science education systems to better understand and foster coherence. Thirteen states including Washington are collaborating with our higher partners in this grant.

CSSS is a terrific professional organization that exists to serve students and teachers across the nation as we envision excellent science education in the 21st century.

Upcoming Washington State LASER Events

January 25 - *STEM Institute Follow Up Meeting (Seattle)*

February 8 - *STEM Institute Follow Up Meeting (Pasco)*

February 11 - *STEAM Power: Turn On The Heat With Creativity and Innovation In Teaching*

March 7-9 - *Assessing the NGSS: Rethinking Formative & Summative Assessments Part II*

June 26-30 - *STEM Education Leadership Institute*

Washington State LASER is Co-Led by:

Pacific Northwest NATIONAL LABORATORY

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