



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

LASER eNewsletter

February 2017

Greetings!

In this edition of our Washington State LASER eNewsletter we are sharing with you two of our upcoming events and examples of the exciting and impactful work being done by LASER Alliances.

We are delighted to announce that, for the first time ever, we will be able to offer scholarships to our *STEM Education Leadership Institute* thanks to the generosity of the Boeing Company. If you are interested in putting together a team and applying for the Institute be sure to do so before April 7. More information is in the article below.

Our LASER Alliances will be convening soon to learn more about assessment item writing and planning the next phases of implementing the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) at our next *Assessing the NGSS* meeting in early March. In their own regions, our North Central and North Sound Alliances have been hard at work on new initiatives. We hope you enjoy reading about their work, and look forward to learning about more Alliance work in future editions of the eNewsletter.

Jacob Clark Blickenstaff, Washington State LASER Co-Director

In This Issue

Did You Know?

[2017 STEM Education Leadership Institute - June 26-30 - Scholarships Now Available](#)

[Assessing the NGSS: Rethinking Formative and Summative Assessment Part II](#)

[Highlights from our LASER Alliances](#)

[Upcoming Washington State LASER Events](#)

Did You Know?

Washington state has a new Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chris Reykdal. On the OSPI website he has outlined his legislative priorities, which you can view [here](#).

2017 STEM Education Leadership Institute - June 26-30 Scholarships Now Available!

Washington State LASER is pleased to announce additional support, generously provided by Boeing, for selected teams to attend the *2017 STEM Education Leadership Institute*. Teams that meet any of the following criteria are eligible for a competitive registration scholarship of up to \$4,000 to defray the team registration fee of \$6,000.

Eligible teams may:

- Serve rural regions
- Represent small schools
- Serve a significant population of high-need students such as (migrant, ESL, tribal, free and reduced lunch, etc.)
- Be geographically distant from or need assistance traveling to Lynnwood, WA

To be eligible for the scholarship, indicate your interest during the Institute application. We will ask you to explain your need in a supplemental application. We look forward to seeing you in June.

Applications are due on Friday, April 7, 2017. [Learn more and apply.](#)

We recorded our webinar on Monday, January 9 where we talked about the Institute and heard from two of our alumni teams. The webinar is now available [here](#).



Assessing the NGSS: Rethinking Formative & Summative Assessments Part II

Washington State LASER's ten Alliances will be convening March 7-9 in SeaTac to continue learning and planning for formative and summative assessment of the Next Generation Science Standard (NGSS).

The first day will be spent learning about Assessment Item Writing with OSPI's Dawn Cope, and the next two days will focus on planning for sharing this information with stakeholders and educators in each region. There will also be time for a "Peer Pilfering Party" where educators from each region share best practices.

Our April eNewsletter will have more information on results of this event - stay tuned.

Highlights from Our LASER Alliances

Our LASER Alliances across the state are growing science leadership in students, teachers, and administrators. Read on to learn more about their great work.

In the North Central Alliance, students are learning about the process of sowing sagebrush seeds in order to help with wildfire recovery. The new learning includes mentorship from an expert for the entire process so that students are able to replicate the growing of sagebrush independently. As a result, a small group of students will continue this critical work in environmental restoration. Additionally, two districts in the region will begin using native plants for a part of their plant sales. Students at Cascade Christian Academy in Wenatchee Washington learned to sow sagebrush seeds from Ted Alway of Derby Canyon Natives. The sagebrush will be planted in the fall of 2017 to replace those lost in the Wenatchee Foothills fires of 2015 and previous years (see photo below).

In our North Sound Alliance, principals immersed themselves in science learning at an event called *Growing Instructional Leadership for Science*. Principals explored, then created models to demonstrate, how surfactants (common chemically engineered molecules in many products) can form clusters called micelles, capable of attracting grease and oils yet readily rinsed away with water. The activity provided them invaluable insights about effective teacher instruction that enables students to learn science using the science practices and crosscutting concepts that define the 3-dimensions of the Next Generation Science Standards. Institute for Systems Biology hosted the event.



Upcoming Washington State LASER Events

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

April 12 - [STEM Institute Follow Up \(Pasco\)](#)

June 26-30 - [STEM Education Leadership Institute](#)

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