



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

LASER eNewsletter

July 2016

While some folks think that summer is all down time for teachers, we will show you how busy many educators are even when their students are enjoying time away from school. Below you will read about our STEM Education Leadership Institute and the upcoming Science Learning Summit. In my new role as Director of K-12 Engagement for Pacific Science Center, and Co-Director of Washington State LASER, I look forward to supporting year-round professional learning for educators all across the state.

Jacob Clark Blickenstaff
Co-Director

In This Issue

Did You Know?

2016 STEM Education Leadership Institute

From Our Colleagues: Science Learning Summit in Southeast Washington

Washington State LASER and Regional Science Coordinators Announce Mission Leadership: A LASER Focus on NASA Materials Meeting

Upcoming Washington State LASER Events

Did You Know?

Pacific Science Center launched a brand new Membership program for low income families. In just four months, the Family Access Membership program has provided over 1,000 families access the Science Center; that's over 2,500 children! If you would like more information on this program, contact our [Membership Office](#) or call 206-443-2924.

2016 STEM Education Leadership Institute: June 27-July 1, 2016

Ten teams from around Washington state attended our 2016 STEM Education Leadership Institute at the end of June for a week of learning. While at the Institute, teams learned how to incorporate STEM into their schools and districts and developed an Action Plan to achieve this integration.

The teams learned about the importance of community partnerships, managing change, the engineering design process in classroom lessons, equity in STEM, conditions that support STEM success, resources for computer science programs and family STEM engagement from our esteemed faculty. Institute faculty joined us from across Washington state and provided expertise in classroom teaching, university research and program management, regional science coordinating, informal education and laboratory science.

In addition to sessions led by our faculty, presentations by guest speakers provided new perspectives on STEM education and rounded out the week. Ann McMahon provided insight on Transforming Engineering Education. Washington State LASER Co-Director Jeff Estes shared State Board of Education policies. Melanie LaForce and Jeanne Century from the University of Chicago shared wisdom and a national perspective on successful STEM schools and Computer Science.

In attendance were Captain Gray STEM Elementary (Pasco School District), Ephrata School District 6-8, Evergreen STEM Elementary (Sedro-Woolley School District), Mullenix Ridge Elementary (South Kitsap School District), South Colby Elementary (South Kitsap School District), North Thurston School District K-8, Marcus Whitman Elementary (Richland School District) and Elementary, Middle School and High School teams from Othello School District. The teams were made up of classroom teachers, administrators, curriculum coaches and community members.

All STEM Education Leadership Institute Alumni are invited to *STEM Institute Follow Up* meetings on January 25, 2017 at Pacific Science Center in Seattle and February 8, 2017 at Educational Service District 123 in Pasco.

Applications for the 2017 *STEM Education Leadership Institute* will open in November. If you would like to be notified when they are open, email [us](#).



From Our Colleagues:

Science Learning Summit in Southeast Washington

There is still time to register for the 2nd Annual *Science Learning Summit* (August 16 and 17 at Centralia College in Centralia).

This year's keynote speaker is Celeste Baine, Director of the [Engineering Education Service Center](#), who was named one of the Nifty-Fifty individuals who have made a major impact on the field of engineering by the US Science and Engineering Festival. Sessions offered will cover topics in computer science applications, environmental education/field study experiences, and Common Core integration. Breakout sessions will be relevant to all grade levels and some will focus on early childhood, SPED and ELL.

Washington State LASER Co-Director Jacob Clark Blickenstaff will be leading two sessions, on science/STEM notebooks and using films to teach science.

To learn about all the sessions being offered and to register for the event check out the *Science Learning Summit* [website](#).

Washington State LASER and Regional Science Coordinators Announce *Mission Leadership: A LASER Focus on NASA Materials Meeting - October 4 & 5 in Vancouver*

This October, Washington State LASER and the Regional Science Coordinators (RSC) will hold the *Mission Leadership: A LASER Focus on NASA Materials* meeting in Vancouver. Washington State Science Fellows will immerse themselves in earth and space sciences lessons, and learn how to integrate the new Washington State Science Learning Standards (WSSLS) and NASA missions into the classroom. The NASA materials and data included in these lessons come from Washington State LASER's work with the [Northwest Earth and Space Science Pipeline \(NESSP\)](#) grant, which will underwrite part of this meeting. Fellows will also work in regional groups to develop implementation

plans for WSSLS in their schools, districts, and regions.

If you are a Fellow interested in attending this event, please contact your RSC for more information.



Our spring meeting with the Washington Science Fellows was a huge success, and we look forward to seeing new Fellows and those that are entering their second year in October.

Upcoming Washington State LASER Events

October 4-5 - *Mission Leadership: A LASER Focus on NASA Materials Meeting (Vancouver)*

November 15-17 - *Assessing the NGSS: Rethinking Formative and Summative Assessments (Spokane)*

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

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

Washington State LASER is Co-Led by:



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