

NGA POLICY ACADEMY ON WORK BASED LEARNING

LEARNING LABS: HIGHLIGHTING PROMISING PRACTICES IN CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING

As a component of Washington State's National Governors Association Policy Academy on Work-Based Learning, Governor Jay Inslee, the Workforce Board, and Washington STEM identified twenty-one career related programs across the state to aid in the exploration of promising practices in Career Connected Learning. The selected programs (the Learning Labs) received a small grant to participate in an assessment of high-quality criteria, identification of promising practices, and to share findings at the Governor's May 31, 2017 Summit on Career Connected Learning. These Learning Labs highlight programs that serve youth from Kindergarten to age 29. The Learning Lab project will help create a system of Career Connected Learning for young people in Washington State, ultimately leading towards pathways to high demand, family wage career opportunities. Funding for the grants come from Governor Inslee's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) discretionary funding. Learning Lab programs and their general location are as follows:

Bellingham: *Northwest Youth Services - Vocational Readiness Program* engages at-risk, runaway, and homeless youth and young adults with appealing and interactive activities that promote social and practical employment skills.

Bremerton: *West Sound STEM Network, Workforce Development Council, and Olympic Educational Service District 114 - YouthWorks Pathways to Success* offers job training services, career counseling, and work experience jobs for underrepresented youth.

Federal Way: *Technology Access Foundation - TAF Academy College and Career Readiness Program* provides school-wide in-class curriculum, classroom speakers, field trips, job shadows, mentorships, and internships for middle and high school students.

Nespelem: *Nespelem K-8* is a school based program that brings business and industry employees (e.g., electric linemen and foresters) together with Tribal Council members into the school for career presentations and hand-on experiences.

Olympia: *Evergreen State College /WSDOT Partnership - Wetlands Monitoring Internship* provides field and laboratory experience for college interns in collecting and analyzing environmental data gathered from WSDOT wetland mitigation sites.

Olympia: *Pacific Education Institute - FieldSTEM Career Connected Learning* is piloting a new program that provided professional development for teachers to integrate locally relevant FieldSTEM work-based learning opportunities into biology, chemistry, and CTE courses.

Ocean Shores: *Grays Harbor YouthWorks* engages high school students in college-level internships with local businesses to develop "soft skills" that increase the likelihood of success in postsecondary and job pursuits.

Renton/Bellevue: *ANEW (Apprenticeship & Non-traditional Employment for Women)* addresses gender diversity in the construction workforce and provides programs that tackle the challenges faced in a male dominated industry. They do this through a pre-apprenticeship program focused on proven strategies for improving the pipeline into construction jobs for women and people of color.

Seattle: *Educurious - Career Connection Program* provides Career Connected Learning through the development of interest-driven, work-based problems with students, teachers, and industry professionals.

Seattle: *Seattle Goodwill- Youth Green Corps Program* combines Seattle Parks apprenticeship opportunities with educational planning and skills training for young adults that are neither in school or working.

Seattle/Tacoma: *Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC) Youth Apprenticeship* is a 2,000-hour program designed for high school juniors and seniors to develop career-ready skills in the aerospace and advanced manufacturing industries. The program combines paid on-the-job training and college-level classroom instruction which can lead to a high school diploma, journey-level card, and short-term college certificate.

Spokane: *Greater Spokane Incorporated/Spokane STEM Network - Business After School* helps students in the region gain STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), through skills-focused workshops hosted by area businesses for students, educators, parents, and community organizations.

Spokane: *Spokane Area Workforce Development Council - Next Generation Zone* brings together education, career skills training, and community and employment resources in one place to provide wrap-around support to inspire young adults in their career goals.

Statewide: *Core Plus* is a two-year standardized high school curriculum co-developed by the Boeing Company and recognized by the manufacturing industry throughout Washington state to prepare high school graduates for an entry-level career in manufacturing.

Statewide: *Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) - Skills that Shine* connects WSOS scholars with local one-to-one industry mentors that will coach scholars on resume writing, interviewing, networking, and professionalism.

Tacoma: *City of Tacoma Neighborhood and Community Services Department - Summer Jobs 253* is a paid internship program designed to provide incoming high school juniors and seniors with the opportunity to acquire life skills, work experience, and required high school credits they need for high school graduation.

Tacoma: *Tacoma Public Schools - Work Site Learning* provides required high school credits and support for students in a variety of worksite learning and external paid internships, as well as internal paid internships through the Tacoma Public Schools CTE department.

Tri-Cities: *Mid-Columbia STEM Network - STEM Like Me!* is a series of interactive personal encounters between STEM professionals and middle school students on the cusp of understanding who they can be in the future.

Vancouver: *Southwest Washington STEM Network - Instructional Worksite Learning Program for Advanced Manufacturing Careers* involves highly-structured, time-limited learning experiences for 11th and 12th grade students interested in exploring careers in advanced manufacturing as well as developing their foundational technical skills, soft skills, and career readiness skills.

Wenatchee: *Wenatchee School District - Wenatchee Learns* provides a system of career connected events, paid business internships, and career-related resources to expand opportunities for Wenatchee youth.

Yakima: *South Central Workforce Development Council - Youth Works: South Central Washington* will work as a catalyst to strengthen existing partnerships and develop employer connections for youth in order to maximize the number of youths accessing mentors and work-based learning to increase graduation, job entry, and career success.