

SPOKANE STEM™

Science Technology Engineering Math



Our mission is to be a catalyst for STEM learning and innovation throughout the community.

We make connections and develop strong collaborations. We create transforming opportunities for children.

We want our children to have “best practice” learning experiences to prepare them—so they will be college and career ready and on the path to STEM careers.

Our Goals

- To enhance STEM education opportunities for all youth in our region.
- To increase the number of students pursuing and achieving success in STEM careers.

Why STEM?

In today’s knowledge-based global economy, skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are more important than ever.

We are in a transformative time in education. Our educational community recognizes the need for cultivating, not only STEM skills, but 21st Century skills such as:

- Critical thinking
- Discernment
- Teamwork
- Problem solving

A growing number of schools are developing innovative models around a unique and personalized project-based learning environment for students. This approach is critical to building the skills kids need to succeed.

If the Spokane region is to compete in this STEM-driven, knowledge-based global economy, we must act now and invest in bold, progressive changes.

Washington STEM launched Spokane STEM and nine additional networks across Washington State as part of a key strategy to increase the number of students pursuing education in high-demand STEM fields. The goal is to reduce the STEM skills gap and grow Washington’s economy.



- The number of STEM jobs is expected to grow by 24% by 2018.
- Facing a lack of qualified candidates—25,000 jobs are unfilled statewide.
- The majority of these unfilled jobs are in health care and STEM fields.
- In Spokane a STEM salary is nearly 2x greater than a non-STEM salaried job.

A PARTNERSHIP

Spokane STEM focuses on a regional approach that is shared, leveraged and scaled on a statewide basis. These partnerships allow us to learn from the experiences of the other networks.

How does the Spokane STEM Network operate?

We collaborate with STEM-related organizations to align with initiatives in our region, around the state, and across the nation.

There is strong regional collaboration through broad stakeholder involvement from:

- Business
- Community organizations
- Early learning
- K-12 education – public & private
- Higher Education – public & private.

Our goal is to build a foundation for community and economic growth in the region.

The strategic vision and direction of the Network is set by the Executive Committee comprised of leaders from each of the stakeholder groups and our network partners implement strategies

of the Network.

Greater Spokane Incorporated's Education & Workforce Department supports the day to day operations of Spokane STEM in partnership with the Northeast Educational Service District 101's math, science and technology team.

The Plan

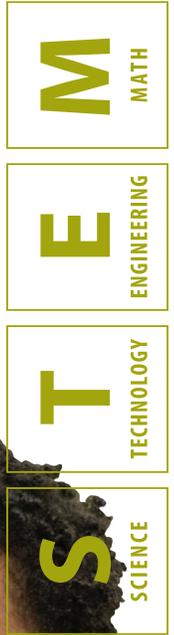
Thanks to the commitment of a broad group of stakeholders, we have completed a comprehensive business plan for enhancing and accelerating STEM education.

The plan goals include:

1. Community awareness to grow the importance and understanding of STEM education
2. Professional development for existing and new teachers in state-of-the-art STEM educational practices
3. Innovation in instruction and school models
4. Postsecondary access and completion to increase the number of students pursuing STEM pathways with a focus on work-based learning experiences

5. Advocacy for public and private support of innovative STEM policymaking.

Our Priorities for Action are actionable, evidence-based strategies toward reaching these goals. They serve as our roadmap in collaboration with Washington STEM and STEM Networks across the state. We share best practices to help advance statewide STEM education.



Executive Committee Leadership

- Callie Bendickson, Community Relations Manager, Itron*
- Alisha Benson, COO, Greater Spokane Incorporated*
- Dr. David Bowman, Dean, College of STEM, Eastern Washington University*
- Jim Brady, Community Colleges of Spokane*
- Dr. Michael Dunn, Superintendent, NEWESD 101*
- Dr. Luisita Francis, Assistant Dean, Community Engagement, Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine*
- Pam Lund, CEO, Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho*
- Patrick Lynch, Director of Energy Solutions/President, Avista Foundation, Avista*
- Mark Mattke, CEO, Spokane Area Workforce Development Council*
- Andrei Mylroie, Partner, DH*
- Dr. Patricia O'Connell Killen, Academic Vice President, Gonzaga University*
- Dr. Shelley Redinger, Superintendent, Spokane Public Schools*
- Patrick Roewe, Executive Director, Spokane County Library District*
- Dr. Gene Sementi, Superintendent, West Valley School District*
- Kelly Shea, Superintendent, East Valley School District*
- Dale Silha, Business Unit Manager, Inland Northwest, McKinstry*
- Kathy Thamm, Executive Director, Community-Minded Enterprises*
- Dr. Noelle Wiersma, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, Whitworth University*
- Bruce Williams, Managing Principal, GeoEngineers*

Spokane STEM is supported by Greater Spokane Incorporated in partnership with the Northeast Washington Education Service District 101.

