



South Central Washington STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics

SOUTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON STEM NETWORK

Purpose: To build a region wide network of stakeholders that collaborate to ensure that all of the region's youth have access to a high quality STEM education and career connected learning opportunities, resulting in an interest driven career path that leads to a family wage job and economic vitality for the region.



ABOUT US

The South Central Washington STEM Network is comprised of leaders from the worlds of education, business, and industry in Yakima and Kittitas counties and portions of Grant and Klickitat counties who are dedicated to developing the learning and career opportunities within our region in the expanding areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

NPOWER GORGE GIRLS

On December 16, we launched nPower Gorge Girls Project in partnership with Career Connect Southwest, First Nations MESA and Trillium Engineering. This online, after school event engaged middle school girls from 5 different rural school districts in the Columbia Gorge region to learn about STEM career pathways and meet female STEM professionals. At the December event the participating girls met Maza Brady and Bri O'Neill. The women shared their story, including their journey to becoming an engineer. There are 5 more events planned for this school year featuring other STEM careers.



[TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS EXCITING PROJECT CLICK HERE](#)



Maza Brady
Manufacturing Mechanical Engineer
Trillium Engineering
Hood River, OR

THE EARLY MATH INNOVATIONS PROJECT

The South Central STEM Network has built regional capacity to support children from low income families, families of color, and rural areas in their early math preparation through investments in two areas: professional development for instructional coaches, teachers, and teacher aids; and family engagement. The Early Math Innovations Project uses a Studio Cycle strategy to train and support the coaches and teachers in Head Start and Migrant Head Start classrooms in the ESD 105 and ESD 171 regions. Math coaches and teachers are trained through a year-long effort to deepen their understanding of math concepts, and learn strategies for developing a positive math mindset.

At the conclusion of each Studio Cycle a Family Math Night is held, giving preschool students the chance to teach their family the math games that they have been learning in the classroom. The Project uses activities developed by Dan Finkle and Catherine Cook of Math for Love. Each family receives their own set of Tiny Polka Dot cards at the conclusion of the Family Math Night so they can continue their math play in the home.

“Parents looked forward to the math nights, not only because they would be able to take a box full of math manipulatives but because they played the math games with their children, but as they played the game they used statements of growth mindset to their little one.”

-Sandra, School Readiness Content Specialist, ESD 105

A teacher shared with me ***“My husband put the mindset statement form on the refrigerator and started to use at least one or two with our daughter a day.”***

-Sandra, School Readiness Content Specialist, ESD 105



APPRENTICESHIP SPOTLIGHT: HECTOR MARTINEZ

ABOUT HECTOR:

Name: Hector Martinez
High School: Toppenish High School & Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center
Age: 18 years of age
Grade: Senior
Race: Hispanic
Apprenticeship Program: AJAC's Automation Technician (2 Year, 2,000 Hour)
Employer: Yakima Chief Hops
College Credits Earned: 15
Started Apprenticeship: June 2019



Why Did You Chose the Program?

I am an 18-year-old senior at Toppenish High School. Recently, some students and I were selected to go on a trip to YV Tech, where I learned about AJAC's apprenticeship program. The program immediately intrigued me as I was raised around construction, with a dad who did maintenance on machines. I chose to enroll with AJAC because they gave me an opportunity to learn about machining while earning benefits like college credit and certifications all while still attending high school.

What Career or Educational Goals Do You Have?

Right now, I am working with Yakima Chief Hops, where they have a need for people with more knowledge in certain areas. A goal of mine is to attend Perry Tech, where I can continue my education, learn the skills my employer needs and become more valuable to my company. I am in the process of working on a schedule in order to work and attend school at the same time.

How Has the AJAC Youth Apprenticeship Program Helped These Career Goals?

Apprenticeship gave me a vision of what kind of career I wanted. I was never big on the idea of college. At first I thought I wanted to be a pediatrician, but the prospect of more schooling had me on the ropes, I am more of a hands-on learner and it's been great to be able to work and learn in a way that caters to that. I have gained enough knowledge and skill so that when I graduate I can attend Perry Tech and continue my growth and education. When I graduate, I am going to have a leg-up on other students, as my apprenticeship gives me certification and work experience that other students just won't have.

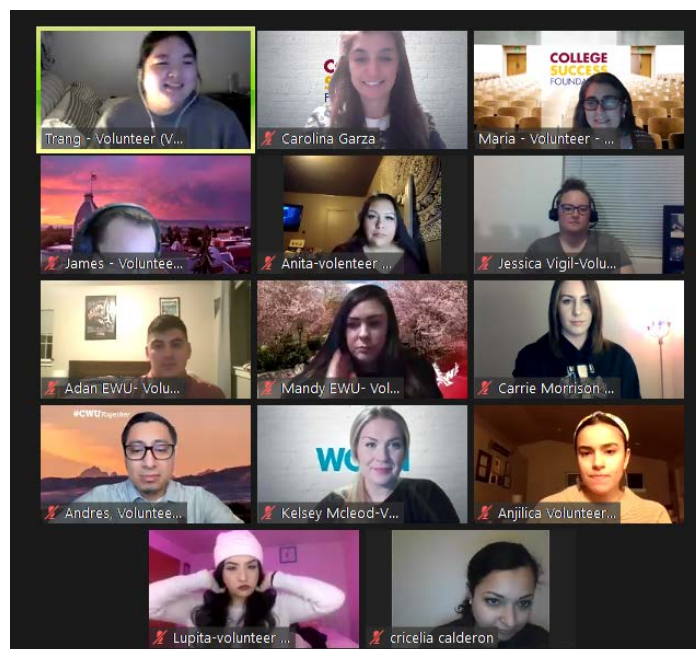
WHERE IS HE NOW? Hector graduated High School in 2020 and is now a full time Automation Technician at Yakima Chief Hops. He will complete his apprenticeship program this year.

REGIONAL FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS FAFSA/WASFA

The immediate need for equitable access to earning a postsecondary credential, especially for populations furthest from opportunity, is highly dependent upon FAFSA/WASFA completion. Yet, students from poverty, students of color, and students from remote and rural areas have significantly lower FAFSA completion rates. This is a glaring example of inequity and we are part of a statewide effort to close this gap. The South Central STEM Network partnered with the College Success Foundation (CSF), WA Gear Up, Washington Student Achievement Council, the Washington College Access Network, and regional school districts to co-host 8 regional financial aid awareness events in November and December, with 4 additional events being held in February. The events are provided in English and Spanish, and held at multiple accessible time slots to meet the needs of families in the region.

To register to attend a February Financial Aid awareness event click [HERE](#) for (Spanish) or [HERE](#) for (English)

To learn more about the FAFSA Proviso and the work of the STEM Network click [HERE](#)



Check out our amazing volunteers!

NEW TO THE ESD 105 STEM TEAM



Maddy Rogers is our new Administrative Assistant. She will be supporting our STEM team at the ESD 105. Maddy is a Selah High School graduate and is working towards her Bachelors Degree in Business. Her most recent work experience comes from her position with the Selah School District. Maddy is married and has a two year old daughter, Violet. In her spare time you can find her coaching Naches High School Cheer, instructing indoor spin classes or spending time with her family outdoors. She is looking forward to being a part of the team as we all work toward the same goal: SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS! You can reach her at maddy.rogers@esd105.org.



Shelly O'Neill will be joining our team as the Career Connected Learning Coordinator for the ESD 105. Shelly has a BA in Social Work and Psychology with a Minor in Behavior Studies. She also holds certifications in CTE as Occupational Information Specialist and CTE Initial Teacher. Her most recent work experience comes from the West Valley School District where she has been instrumental in the development of their youth apprenticeship programs. Shelly is very active in our community and has participated in Leadership Yakima and the CTE General Advisory Council. In her spare time she enjoys photography, hiking, camping, gardening and traveling. We are very excited to have her join our STEM team at the ESD 105. You can be reach her at shelly.oneill@esd105.org.

Stay tuned for our new
website launch!



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
NEWSLETTER OR BECOME A
STEM NETWORK MEMBER!
Click [HERE](#) for more information



Questions, Comments, or
News to Feature?
E-mail us at:
maddy.rogers@esd105.org



CLICK THE LINKS AND FOLLOW
US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



[@LINK](#)



[@LINK](#)



[@LINK](#)