



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Pacific Education Institute**

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**Organization's General Goals:**  
Pacific Education Institute empowers educators to advance equitable civic and scientific literacy by promoting outdoor, integrated, career connected, locally relevant, real-world science.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2019 Q1	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Pacific Education Institute.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

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**Final Report: PEI Puget Sound FieldSTEM® Grant**

Marilyn Sheldon  
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions  
8802 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Marilyn and Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Team,

Thank you for supporting Pacific Education Institute again this past year. Your contribution helped to make our ongoing work throughout the Puget Sound region possible.

Our signature model is FieldSTEM®, designed to help classroom teachers, schools and school districts implement equitable environmental and sustainability education. At FieldSTEM workshops, teachers learn how to integrate outdoor-based, locally relevant STEM education into their regular curriculum and across subject areas such as English Language Arts (ELA), math and social studies. The FieldSTEM framework also fosters collaboration with community partners such as natural resources companies, Tribal nations, nonprofit organizations, and conservation groups. We are happy to share the following highlights from our efforts during this latest grant cycle:

**Workshops:** Since May 2019, PEI has conducted three FieldSTEM workshops around the region: Field Investigations, FieldSTEM Notebooks, and Schoolyard Investigations. In those workshops, teachers learned how to use their own school grounds as the basis for scientific investigations, use science notebooks as a powerful and engaging tool that can be integrated with ELA, and help students engage in authentic, outdoor-based learning. A sampling of the feedback we received from elementary school teachers who participated:



Students from Bordeaux Elementary School in Shelton visit their local estuary every year on Skokomish Tribal property as part of FieldSTEM.

“Best training I ever had. I love how interactive and useful they are.”

“There are so many ways to incorporate ELA and math with science, using this notebooking.”

“I believe my students will be engaged and learn more critical thinking skills. They will also be more organized so they can apply this skill to other areas.”

**Shelton School District:** In Mason County, the Shelton District continues to be a model of excellence in FieldSTEM implementation. At each grade level (K-9), all students go on field experiences with community partners to extend their learning and gain exposure to job opportunities in their area. In the past year, Shelton teachers met with community partners like Capitol Land Trust, Mason

Conservation District, Tacoma Public Utility Department, and the Squaxin Island Tribe to further improve these experiences.

**Tumwater School District:** The nearby Tumwater School District is currently in the process of taking the next steps in their two-year FieldSTEM implementation plan with a focus on 4P<sup>th</sup> grade. After multiple Tumwater teachers attended one of PEI’s ESD 113 storyline workshops, they requested a district-wide training for 4th-grade teachers that would

cover both FieldSTEM Notebook workshops and how to turn 'field trips' into 'High Impact Field Experiences' (HIFEs). Each year 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes visit Port Blakely, a regional forest products company, but until now there had been no clear connection back to the science taught as part of the curriculum. PEI is building that connection, and the work conducted this year will extend into the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the future.

**Clime Time Workshops:** Since May 2019 PEI has offered eight Clime Time workshops covering topics like forest and climate change, indigenous storylines, food waste and erosion, and carbon sequestration. The workshops are part of a series PEI offers as part of Clime Time, a state-led network for climate science learning that helps teachers and their students understand climate science issues affecting Washington communities. PEI is one of sixteen organizations chosen by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to develop instructional materials, design related assessment tasks and evaluation strategies, and facilitate student events statewide.



Squaxin Island Tribe Education Advocate Sally Brownfield shares Indigenous Ways of Knowing and information on native plants with participants at a Clime Time workshop.

As always, feedback from educators is key to understanding the effectiveness of our workshops. At the end of all PEI workshops, teachers fill out evaluation forms where they rate the quality of the instruction as "Poor", "Fair", "Good", "Very Good", or "Excellent". Of all educators who attended a workshop in Thurston County during the past grant year, 95% rated the workshop "Excellent" or "Very Good".

We continue to focus on making FieldSTEM accessible to all schools and districts, regardless of income level or location so that every student can experience rigorous, high-quality STEM education. Thank you for helping to make this important work possible.

Thank you for taking the time to review some of the highlights from our programs and initiatives that you've helped us to accomplish. We will continue working to improve student achievement by empowering educators to teach locally-relevant, career-connected STEM in the environment.

If you have any questions, please call me at (360) 705-9291 or email me at [kkurtz@pacificeducationinstitute.org](mailto:kkurtz@pacificeducationinstitute.org)

Kind Regards,

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