



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Pacific Education Institute

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<https://pacificeducationinstitute.org>

Organization's General Goals:
Pacific Education Institute supports educators by specializing in professional learning and FieldSTEM implementation.

Date of Award:	Level:
2024 Q3	\$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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November 4, 2025

Final Report: Snohomish County FieldSTEM

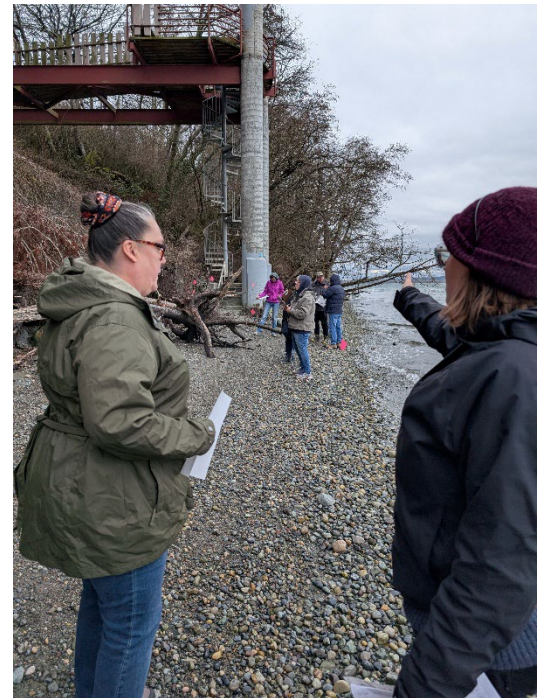
PEI's proposal to Tulalip Cares Charitable Contributions was for funding to support participation and implementation of our FieldSTEM model. This included PEI staff time to deliver workshops and meet with schools, districts, and community partners for customized professional development; travel and workshop costs; materials; and indirect costs to support our programming in the region.

Overall, 39 Snohomish County educators attended at least one PEI workshop in the last eleven months. Here are highlights of our work in Snohomish County since receiving the funds this January:

In March 2025, half of the 18 educators who attended a Connecting Communities Through Wetland Education workshop at Padilla Bay Estuarine Reserve were from Snohomish County. The workshop's focus was on highlighting diverse perspectives of Skagit County communities impacted by wetland mitigation through the lens of field-based learning.

Participants learned about the history of the land from Skagit Land Trust conservation project manager Karen Odden, then role-played various affected parties in Skagit County, including government, industry, business, farmers and environmental organizations. They read a place-based case study summarizing an affected party's viewpoint and shared it with the group. One teacher plans to use that activity with students, reporting that 'Role playing different opinions regarding environmental topics' was an aspect of learning they were most likely to use in their classroom. Read more:

<https://pacificeducationinstitute.org/2025/03/the-upside-of-erosion-and-other-lessons-from-padilla-bay-workshop/>



Teachers at Padilla Bay workshop

A student team from Heritage High School attended PEI’s Environmental and Sustainability Literacy Student Summit in January. Their group shared research on the four-day workweek. They found that the practice aligns with a Tulalip Tribe core value which translates to English as ‘We will arrive at a time when each person has become most capable.’



Heritage High School students at the Student Summit

“Taking that time to rest and making sure you’re a capable community means that you can live a sustainable life,” explained Heritage student and Tulalip tribal member Raylea Freiburg at the 2025 Environmental & Sustainability Literacy Student Summit. “A sustainable life isn’t just that you can take care of nature, but

that you can live longer.” The shorter week also has potential ramifications for pollution. “The more I looked into it, I found that going to a four-day workweek has impacts on the environment,” Freiberg said, “on mitigating greenhouse gases, mitigating traffic congestion and making sure that we’re connected to our [tribal] sovereignty.” Read more:

<https://pacifieducationinstitute.org/2025/02/students-take-the-lead-at-2025-student-summit/>

In June, 8 Snohomish County educators joined a two-day, in-person ‘Forests, Fire and Community workshop co-hosted by PEI and Hampton Lumber. Over the two days, participants learned about forest health indicators, the relationship between western Washington forests and fire, how scientists manage forests for fire, ways to calculate buffers for riparian zones, forest practice rules, and the factors that



Forests, Fire and Community workshop

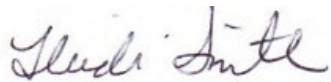
influence forest management decisions. By the end of the workshop, they had new perspectives on the process.

“Out of my 23 years of teaching, this professional development is in my top two – or ties for first in terms of how much I learned and [the] misconceptions [that] changed, changing my perspective on logging in this case,” said one. “I’m so happy to have the rest of the story now.”

Read more: <https://pacificeducationinstitute.org/2025/07/hampton-lumber-workshop-expands-perspectives-on-forest-management/>

Thank you so much for supporting this important work of improving education by connecting students with their local communities and ecosystems. If you have any questions, please call me at (360) 464-8706 or email me at hsmith@pacificeducationinstitute.org.

With Gratitude,



Heidi Smith (*she/her/hers*)

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