

Handout from Will Dougherty
distributed at the December 3, 2019
Mobility & Environment Committee
meeting.



PACIFIC
SCIENCE
CENTER



EXPANDING ACCESS TO SCIENCE

Opening the doors to science exploration for
King County children and families

We all need a basic understanding of science.

Both individual and societal issues should be informed by science: Climate change. Vaccines. Nutrition. Energy use. Technology.

We sometimes expect schools to provide all the education necessary, but only 5% of lifetime learning is in the classroom. The best way to increase the public's critical thinking skills and knowledge of science is to reach them during the other 95% of their lives.

Childhood is prime time for science learning, and children thrive when they get to be hands-on with science outside the classroom. We see it every day at our historic Seattle Center campus, at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center in Bellevue, and when we travel to schools and community centers across the state.

There are barriers to these experiences. Many families, and schools cannot afford admission, program registration fees, or transportation. Some learning opportunities don't adequately accommodate a range of social, physical and intellectual abilities.

We aim to open the doors even wider.

Access to Science Pipeline

The Science Center is committed to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. We developed the Access to Science Pipeline to:

- **Create opportunities** for Washington's children, especially those that have historically been underserved and underrepresented in STEM fields,
- **Remove barriers** to participation in our facilities and programs,
- **Augment** science education,
- **Increase enthusiasm** and readiness for the STEM-based economy,
- **Engage** our communities, and
- **Reach kids of all ages** and open the door to post-secondary education and training.

These programs teach students about science, but also help students develop the critical thinking and exploration skills that are essential in a knowledge economy.

Family and Youth Access Memberships

We want all families and youth to experience Pacific Science Center. That's why we work with City and County agencies and community organizations such as Mary's Place, Mockingbird Society and Wellspring to tell families about our special memberships.

Full family memberships are only \$19 a year for those on public assistance and completely free for youth experiencing homelessness or in foster care.



Need-based Camp Scholarships

More than 5,500 youth in pre-K-8th grade participate in Pacific Science Center's week-long science camps each summer at eight locations throughout Puget Sound. Need-based scholarships at every location cover 100% of camp fees, early drop off, lunch, and late pick up. We work with service agencies and community organizations to inform families about camp scholarships.



Field Trips

Field trips to the Science Center provide hands-on science education to students and curriculum and instructional support to teachers.

Many Title I schools do not have resources for field trips and many of their students have never been on any kind of field trip. We make field trips possible for Title I schools with free admission and programming, and by providing transportation support.



OUR IMPACT

3,986

Families with Family and Youth Access memberships. Of these, 1,979 families live in King County and 868 families live in Seattle.

100+

Youth will receive camp scholarships during the summer of 2019. 72 of these youth live in King County. 38 of these youth live in Seattle.

45,000+

Students will visit the Science Center on field trips during the 2018–19 school year. 28,325 of these students attend 431 schools in King County. 6,894 of these students attend 150 schools in Seattle.



Science On Wheels

Our Science On Wheels (SOW) team travels across the state, building excitement for science, engineering and math with engineering and math with live science shows, portable exhibits, and interactive workshops and lessons.

During the 2018–19 school year, SOW is delivering programs to more than 108,000 elementary school students. More than 55,000 of these students are in Title I schools in low-income and rural communities, many without access to quality informal science education programs.

These schools do not have adequate resources for hands-on interactive science education and can't pay for SOW to visit, but we make it possible. We work throughout the year with teachers, parents and administrators to identify the Title I schools where we can have most impact.



High School Development Programs

Discovery Corps members and Lake Washington Watershed Interns develop substantial science expertise while building personal and professional skills and earning a paycheck.

Discovery Corps is a multi-year youth development program that puts high school students from diverse backgrounds on the front lines at Pacific Science Center. Students participate in interactive skill-building workshops, STEM-based internships, and guest-facing operations.

This year, 72 students participated Discovery Corps; 51% of them female, 79% people of color, and 53% low income. 70 of these students live in King County, 26 of them in Seattle. Discovery Corps youth complete bachelor's and graduate level degrees at higher rates than the broader Seattle population. 42% of Discovery Corps alumni (2006–12) are employed in STEM- or education-related fields. At least 67% have done something related to science or education after graduating from high school.

Lake Washington Watershed Interns spend one year becoming informed environmental stewards of their local community through mentoring, hands-on learning, habitat restoration, and stream monitoring. The program is based at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center in Bellevue.

38,894

Students in 158 King County schools will be served by Science On Wheels during the 2018–19 school year, including 8,578 students in 40 schools in Seattle.

42%

Of Discovery Corps alumni (2006–12) are employed in STEM- or education-related fields. At least 67% have done something related to science or education after graduating from high school.

31

King County students are participating in LWWIP during the 2018-19 school year. 65% of them are female, 65% are people of color, and 77% speak a language other than English at home.

Geographic Impact

Our Seattle campus, our education center in Bellevue and our mobile teams are able to serve children all over Seattle, King County and the state. Here is a look at who is taking advantage of these programs in King County alone:

County District	Access Memberships (Families)	Camp Scholarships	Field Trips Title I (Students)	Field Trips Non-Title I (Students)	Science On Wheels Title I (Students)	Science On Wheels Non-Title I (Students)	Discovery Corps	Lake Washington Watershed Intern Program
District 1	253	2	293	3,024	522	7,011	5	7
District 2	289		615	1,716	1,821	1,469	14	
District 3	120	6		3,991	702	6,270	5	1
District 4	297	31	127	1,535	98	1,801	7	8
District 5	178	14	939	1,659	1,947	50	13	
District 6	132	4	751	4,015	70	5,844	7	8
District 7	220		889	1,388	1,819	112		
District 8	331	17	475	2,755	3,631	1,252	16	
District 9	159		384	3,769	1,719	3,756	3	9
TOTAL	1,979	72	4,473	23,852	12,329	27,565	70	31

Expanding Our Impact

Pacific Science Center is deeply committed to expanding science learning to all our communities.

Science Center staff and leaders have done extraordinary work to develop programs that reach kids and families where they are, ignite their natural curiosity and build their understanding of the world. These programs also build skills that help young people in school and beyond.

The *Access to Science Pipeline* provides high quality educational experiences to under-represented and underserved children and families. These programs open the doors to long-term STEM career-connected learning. We look forward to collaborating with the City of Seattle, King County and others to continue to expand the number of young people we can serve.



OUR MISSION

To ignite curiosity

in every child and fuel a passion for discovery, experimentation and critical thinking in all of us.



200 Second Ave. North, Seattle, WA 98109
 (206) 443-2001
info@pacsci.org

pacificsciencecenter.org