



## SUPPORTING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Tyler Rivera was a shy 17-year old from South Seattle when he joined Pacific Science Center's Discovery Corps, a science career ladder program that teaches life skills as well as encourages youth to help carry out our mission to ignite curiosity. Tyler knew he wanted to do something with science, but he had no idea what direction to take. Now, a year and a half later, he has graduated high school and is heading to Western Washington University to study physics. "Pacific Science Center gave me a great experience that helped push me towards a decision," he says. "Being able to talk to people about something I really enjoy—the science of physics—made me know that I wanted to teach science."

*"This program opened me up to new opportunities and made me feel confident with myself."*

Tyler's story is just one of many that illustrate how Pacific Science Center is making an impact on young people's lives, helping to shape their understanding of, and interest in, science and math, and making them aware of careers and associated educational pathways in a wide range of scientific disciplines.

Tyler notes that his experience with Pacific Science Center has provided him with another point of entry for learning and discovery. "I'm particularly interested in physics," he says, "but when I worked on a program Discovery Corps offers in conjunction with Science On Wheels, I had to learn about electrical engineering for the "Charged Up" series," an experience he might not have otherwise had. The Discovery Corps program provides young people with important life skills—presentation techniques and communication skills, to name two—that set them up for success in school, work, and life. "I had confidence problems before coming to Pacific Science Center," Tyler says. "I didn't even want to answer the door when someone knocked. This program opened me up to new opportunities and made me feel confident with myself. It opened my eyes to my own communication skills and made me want to bring science and people together. I feel really fortunate to be part of this program. I feel like I've changed a lot of people's lives. I have the Science Center to thank for that."

Tyler is a member of the first generation in his family to pursue higher education. As he enters his freshman year of college, he has already set his sights on his career. "I had my mind set on teaching high school physics at my old high school. And that's still an option on the table, but right now I'm thinking about somehow staying with Pacific Science Center. I want to come back and give back more than they have given to me."



“Every day, kids enter the science center and, like I was, are wowed and amazed by the beauty of science. Those kids are the future engineers, biologists, and engineers of our world; they will discover the cure to cancer, create spaceships to blast us through our galaxy, and program the first artificially intelligent programs. Discovery Corps is the next step of their journey, a way for these kids to further improve their public speaking abilities, develop professional skills, and foster their love for science. Your support makes it possible for these teens to build upon their love for science, which is something that is completely irreplaceable.”

- Chris Chen, 2017 Discovery Corp Graduate

## Empowering and employing the next generations of science enthusiasts.

Discovery Corps is the Pacific Science Center’s intensive youth development program that builds science literacy and leadership skills of high school students, and exposes them to the professional world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

The program consists of students who show an interest in the sciences, are highly motivated, and traditionally underrepresented in STEM career fields. They undergo extensive training throughout their high school years and learn valuable job skills in customer service, education, and communication with people of all ages.

Discovery Corps is not just about science it’s about providing work-based learning opportunities that build confidence, empower youth with employable skills, teach teens about self-advocacy, and emphasize the importance of service to the community.

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### HOW IT ALL WORKS:

1. **Identification:** Work with schools and counselors to identify and enroll motivated youth who may lack opportunities.
2. **Training:** Corps members spend up to four years learning the principals of science and become increasingly more literate in science. They will complete 100 hours of service learning and training.
3. **Assessment:** Corps member are assessed on skills and performance. If expectations have been met, he/she may be promoted into a paid position at the Science Center.
4. **Employment:** Corps member’s responsibilities will increase with available training to assist with the continued development of skills. Paid youth can continue to work towards further promotions within the structure of the program.
5. **Graduation:** Members graduate from the program ready for post-secondary education or to contribute to our economy and community.

### DISCOVERY CORPS 2017 RESULTS

- Discovery Corps has a 98% retention rate showing that youth are engaged and find the program valuable and Discovery corps members have an 85% program graduation rate.
- The cohort included 21 students of color, 17 women, 10 students who speak a language other than English at home, and 8 first-generation college students.
- The Discovery Corps cohort had members that went off to Harvey Mudd College, Tacoma Community College, University of Washington, Georgia Tech, St. Johns University, Pitzer College, Harvard University and other outstanding colleges.