We like to say that Science is Everywhere, but it is also happening all the time. With our Summer Science Series, we partner with organizations that provide out-of-school time programming for low income neighborhoods and do week long programs to really build relationships with those students and ignite their curiosity over a longer period than what we are typically able to offer over the school year. Ultimately, this will lead to more STEM education hours that the students will get, at a time when they need it the most. It is also an opportunity to really help student practice the exploration and discovery skills they already possess so that they can continue exploring their curiosity throughout the summer.

We not only want to provide STEM education to more students, we also want to provide the highest quality STEM education for these students and truly encourages them to act like scientists.

“Well, this is an impossible program. The Pacific Science Center made the seemingly impossible possible. Within our gym and in each of our classrooms, the Science on Wheels prepared students for blastoff with laughter and real knowledge of astronomy. In each of our classrooms from kindergaten to 6th grade students had the opportunity to engage in developmentally appropriate, truly engaging, and hands-on tangible activities that exposed them to important knowledge about space and astronomy. Throughout the day, students were excited, and interested in the lessons, and more importantly, the science on wheels program reminded students that traveling to space and exploring the furthest corners of our universe is possible, and they are currently developing the skills and knowledge that could be the first steps in a long journey to truly suiting up and preparing for blastoff. is just not feasible. We understand the importance of out of school learning experiences. These fun and engaging experiences can be vital to a student’s success in school and beyond. Expanding access to families in need is just one way the Pacific Science Center is working to combat the widening achievement gap.

“Investing in summer science programs does more than just prevent summer learning loss. It gives kids the opportunity to synthesize what they learned in school, and practice applying those STEAM skills in creative ways.”

- Janice C., Outreach Education Supervisor

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“As educators, we are truly humbled by the phenomenal programming that the Pacific Science Center provides to our students, and we really appreciate the awe that they generated for children and adults at our school. The partnership strengthens our science program, and it builds our confidence that we are preparing students for a future that we don’t yet understand.”

- Corbin Busby, Assistant Principle, Hilltop Elementary
SCIENCE OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Pacific Science Center is rooted in serving communities near and far that promote learning, discovery, curiosity, and well-being in all. Outreach Programs were designed to provide hands-on programming to inspire students to explore more science classes, to consider STEM-related careers, and to educate all on the connections science makes to everyday living. Outreach programs provide our community with the tools, resources, and programs needed for school readiness, and for future educational and career success in STEM fields.

SCIENCE ON WHEELS

Since 1973, Science On Wheels has been reaching out to rural, small, and underserved communities that have limited access to STEM education. The program offers full school assemblies and portable exhibit sets, along with classroom lessons with content for grades K-8. Schools have us back year over year for experiences and, with six different STEM themed vans, there is always something new to enjoy. Currently our six content areas are Anatomy & Physiology, Astronomy, Engineering, Geology, Math, and Physics. We are constantly striving to enhance our curriculum and activities so they are more hands-on, exploratory, and reflect current scientific thinking. To further this goal, we are excited to be adding a new content area, Computer Science, to the fleet in the spring of 2020, to better meet the educational needs of our region.

The work of our outreach educators goes beyond the school environment and doesn’t stop when summer arrives. While our school based experiences are the foundation of our outreach program, our commitment to reaching underserved communities means we must look beyond formal educational environments. This past year we have started relationships with and begun programming in Native American Communities Centers and DSHS Juvenile Rehabilitation Center. We also have an active Summer STEM program that takes the same hands-on science programming to local community centers, libraries, and other nonprofits with summer programming.

Last year, Science On Wheels delivered hands-on science education programming to more than 131,000 people at 454 venues across Washington State and beyond, including many communities traditionally underrepresented in science. Half of our in-school programs were at locations where more than 40 percent of students qualify for subsidized lunches, which means we served over 61,000 Title I students this year. An additional 41,000 people experienced a day long field trip to the Science Center this year, including 9,000 Title I students. In the coming year, we plan to continue our outreach to school and communities with the most need.

Total students served: 115,323
Title I students served: 61,332