



## **Washington Selected for Innovative National Governors Association Grant Program to Help Align its Education System with the State’s Economy**

### **Background – Request for Proposals (RFP)**

In May 2014, the National Governor’s Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices issued a Request for Proposals entitled *NGA Policy Academy on Aligning the Education and Training Pipeline to the Needs of the Economy*. The purpose of this NGA Policy Academy grant program is to support states in planning and taking action to better align their education and training systems to meet the needs and employment opportunities of their economies.

Washington was one of eight states chosen to receive the full award in this highly competitive grant program. An additional six states were chosen to receive awards at reduced amounts. The full list of states selected for awards include: *Washington, plus Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Virginia, and West Virginia*.

The selected states, in addition to grant funding, will receive opportunities to learn from one another, as well as technical assistance from the NGA Center for Best Practices and outside experts. This NGA Policy Academy program is designed to help selected states make progress within the following areas:

- Articulate and implement a strong vision connecting the education and training systems with the needs of the economy;
- Integrate and use education and workforce data to inform policy, track progress and measure success;
- Build industry and education partnerships; and
- Modify the use of resources and incentives to support attainment of the integrated vision.

### **Summary of Washington’s Proposal**

#### ***Proposal Title:***

“The Governor’s STEM Education Innovation Alliance: Leveraging the NGA Policy Academy to Foster Washington’s Technology-Based Economy”

#### **Grant Effort to be led by Washington Student Achievement Council:**

Governor Inslee has asked Gene Sharratt and the Washington Student Achievement Council to lead the grant program activities for the state.

**Cross-Agency Leadership Team:** The cross-agency leadership structure for coordinating priorities will include the following individuals:

**Marcie Maxwell**, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor's Office. In addition to Governor Inslee's direct engagement with the efforts of the team, Ms. Maxwell will represent the Governor's Office.

**Gene Sharratt**, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council. Governor Inslee has asked the Washington Student Achievement Council to act as the fiscal agent for the grant and Dr. Sharratt, as Executive Director, will direct the leadership team's overall activities.

**Daryl Monear**, Associate Director for Academic Affairs and Policy, Washington Student Achievement Council, will be the key person responsible for directing the day to day activities of the state's participation in the Policy Academy.

**Randy Spaulding**, Director of Academic Affairs and Policy at the Washington Student Achievement Council will serve as fiscal agent for the grant.

**Jim Schmidt**, Director, Education Research Data Center, Office of Financial Management, will lead the Education Research Data Center's activities in creating the Talent Supply and Demand Dashboard.

**STEM Education Innovation Leadership Team:** The following will participate as members of the STEM Education Innovation leadership team on behalf of their respective government, business, or industrial sectors:

- Brian Bonlender - Director, Washington State Department of Commerce
- Violet "Vi" Boyer - President and CEO, Independent Colleges of Washington
- Jeff Charbonneau - 2013 National Teacher of the Year, Zillah High School and Educational Service District 105
- Maud Daudon - Director & CEO, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
- Susan Enfield - Superintendent, Highline School District
- Christine Johnson - Chancellor, Community Colleges of Spokane
- Scott Keeney - President & CEO, nLIGHT Corporation
- Caroline King - Chief Policy Officer, Washington STEM
- Mike Kluse - Director, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Ed Lazowska - Bill & Melinda Gates Chair, University of Washington Computer Science & Engineering
- Marcie Maxwell - Senior Policy Advisor on Education, Governor Inslee's Legislative Affairs & Policy Office
- Gil Mendoza - Deputy Superintendent, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Isabel Munoz-Colon - State Board of Education Member, City of Seattle, Office for Education
- Gene Sharratt - Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council
- Brad Smith - Executive Vice President, Microsoft Corporation
- Stan Sorscher - Labor Representative, Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace
- Brian Teppner - Principal, Newport Heights Elementary School, Bellevue School District
- Nancy Truitt Pierce - Director, School Board, Monroe Public Schools
- Margaret Tudor - Executive Director, Pacific Education Institute
- Joyce Walters - CEO and Founder, Corporate Education Strategies

- Yolanda Watson Spiva - President & CEO, College Success Foundation
- Sam Whiting - President & CEO, Thrive By Five Washington
- Yale Wong - Chairman and Founder, General Biodiesel

### **Core Operations and Management Team:**

**Gene Sharratt**, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council

**Daryl Monear**, Associate Director, Academic Affairs and Policy, Washington Student Achievement Council

**Randy Spaulding**, Director of Academic Affairs and Policy, Washington Student Achievement Council

**Marcie Maxwell**, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor's Office

**Caroline King**, Chief Policy Officer, Washington STEM

**Jim Schmidt**, Director, Education Research Data Center, Washington State Office of Financial Management

### **Grant Funding and Resources:**

The direct funding amount for this award is \$170,000. But this grant program offers valuable additional resources beyond this dollar amount. Washington will participate in the NGA Policy Academy, which will offer opportunities to strengthen relationships among key policymakers across the state and will give the grant leadership team access to NGA Center staff experts, as well as other national experts and state leaders, offering a platform to take advantage of best practices and important lessons learned in other parts of the country.

### **Grant Support will Advance Planning and Implementation of the Governor's STEM Education Innovation Alliance:**

The primary issue in Washington for aligning the education system with employers' needs lies in addressing the demand for STEM-educated workers. Washington's dynamic and growing high-technology economy creates many high-skill and high wage job opportunities for its residents. However, it also creates challenges for the state's postsecondary education and training system. For example, a 2013 report by the Washington Roundtable revealed that there were 25,000 unfilled jobs in Washington due to a lack of qualified candidates. Eighty percent of those jobs were in high-demand health care and STEM fields like computer science and engineering.

***The NGA Policy Academy Program and the Governor's STEM Education Innovation Alliance.*** Washington is in need of an effective vehicle for aligning the state's education and career training system with the job opportunities and employer needs of its STEM-driven economy. In 2013, Governor Inslee worked with state senators and representatives to pass a key piece of legislation (E2SHB 1872) that establishes a multi-sector STEM Education Innovation Alliance, with a set of tools that will help align the state's education, training and workforce systems with the economy. The NGA Policy Academy grant program will play a key role in advancing the Governor's STEM Education Innovation Alliance agenda, catalyzing efforts to bring disparate resources together and promoting best practice strategies by leveraging the Policy Academy's cross-state meeting structure.

### **The creation of a talent supply and demand dashboard.**

An integral part of this grant project will be creation of a *talent supply and demand dashboard*, which will provide a valuable tool for tracking progress, sharing data, and focusing strategic attention on areas of the education pipeline that could be most productively improved. The dashboard project will be led by Jim Schmidt, the Director of the Education Research Data Center.

### **Initial Meetings**

This project will get off to a fast start. Major meetings that will occur this fall will include:

**September 22, 2014:** *First in-state policy workshop and site visit.* The meeting will be held in the Governor's Conference Room on the capitol campus. The Governor will join us for part of that meeting at that location. The full STEM Alliance Leadership Team will meet there from 9:00 - 11:30 am, and the core operations and management group will meet from 11:45 - 12:45. Discussions with NGA Center staff will center on emerging research, common challenges and strategies, and sharing of best practices experience across policy academy states. State action plans, metrics, and planned budget allocations will be further developed and refined.

**October 9-10, 2014:** *First Policy Academy meeting.* Washington has been chosen as the site for this first meeting. Six members of the leadership team will be chosen to represent Washington at this initial meeting of the Policy Academy. To take full advantage of the expertise and cross-state resources of the Policy Academy, discussions will center on emerging research, common challenges and strategies, and sharing of best practices experience across policy academy states. State action plans, metrics, and planned budget allocations will be further developed and refined.

**December 2, 2014:** *First annual statewide summit.* The Governor and the STEM Education Innovation Alliance will partner with Washington STEM to convene the first of two annual statewide summits of education, business and community leaders, policymakers and philanthropists to share visions and advance the goals. Lessons learned at this convening will be incorporated into the evolving action plan.

### **Core Grant Writing Team:**

**Daryl Monear**, Associate Director, Academic Affairs and Policy, Washington Student Achievement Council

*With assistance from:*

**Randy Spaulding**, Director of Academic Affairs and Policy, Washington Student Achievement Council

**Gene Sharratt**, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council

**Marcie Maxwell**, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor's Office

**Caroline King**, Chief Policy Officer, Washington STEM

**Jim Schmidt**, Director, Education Research Data Center, Washington State Office of Financial Management