

IMPACT REPORT SPRING 2018





*Pacific Science Center ignites curiosity
in every child and fuels a passion
for discovery, experimentation,
and critical thinking in all of us.*

Thank you so much for your support of Pacific Science Center.

As the school year comes to a close we are pleased to report and celebrate an important milestone with you. **This year, for the first time ever, Science on Wheels served more than 50,000 students in Title I schools.** These schools, those with high percentages of children from low-income families, were able to access engaging and interactive science learning thanks to increased subsidies made possible through your support. Talk about impact!

Your investments are fueling a robust expansion of our Access to Science pipeline. In the pages ahead you will learn how **your gifts are enabling access for children, families, and schools across our region.** You will hear from Michael, an alum of our Discovery Corps program who has gone on to develop patient-derived, cell-based therapies to treat cancer. Plus be sure to read about our new Girls' Night Out program and the Watershed Internship, each igniting a passion for science in local youth.

As the summer heats up we are proud to say that when "School is Out, Science is In." Your continued generosity will provide scholarships for summer campers, free community-based programming for low-income youth, and sustain our teen internship programs. As a donor, Member, or volunteer you are an essential partner in our work to fuel a passion for discovery, critical thinking, and experimentation.

Thank you for investing in curiosity!



Will Daugherty

Will Daugherty
President & CEO



Adriane Brown

Adriane Brown
Chair, Board of Directors

Discovery Corps: Inspiring the Next Generation of Scientists

Since 2005, Pacific Science Center's Discovery Corps program has been working with local teens. Youth join as rising sophomores and remain in the Corps until graduating high school. Throughout the program they develop skills that will prepare them for STEM careers. Teens work on public speaking abilities and complete research internships at local universities. Because of your support, Discovery Corps can continue to inspire the next generation of scientists. Michael W. (pictured below) graduated from the Discovery Corps Class of 2010 and is already making an impact on the world.

"While in Discovery Corps, the tide pool was one of my favorite exhibits to work. I loved explaining the regenerative abilities of the starfish and other echinoderms to visitors. It was always intriguing to me how such small creatures had abilities beyond what we humans could naturally do. Being involved early in this kind of scientific environment really inspired me to pursue a career in biology.

I graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in bioengineering, and recently from the University of Southern California with a master's of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine. I now work in a research hospital in Los Angeles manufacturing patient-derived cell-based therapies to treat blood and brain cancers."





Since 2014, Fellows have contributed more than 2,000 hours of service with Pacific Science Center



Meet Dr. Amanda Woodward Davis, Science Communication Fellow

Native Seattleite Dr. Amanda Woodward Davis first knew she wanted to be a scientist at age 12. “In 6th grade I first learned that HIV was causing children across Africa to be orphaned. In my naiveté, I told my parents I was going to cure it.” Today she is following her passion as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center, studying the immune system and how it responds to infectious diseases. But doing this research was not enough for Dr. Davis. She wanted a chance to share her work with the public in a meaningful way — and she found that opportunity through the Science Communication Fellowship.

Pacific Science Center’s Science Communication Fellowship provides training for local science professionals. Fellows receive ongoing opportunities to engage with the public about their work. The program is part of Portal to the Public, a nationally adopted program pioneered by the Science Center, which works to engage public interest in current research and innovation.

Once accepted into the program, Fellows begin by taking a multi-week science communication course. This training builds skills in effectively engaging public audiences in research-oriented conversations. After completing the course, the Fellows take part in public engagement programs at Pacific Science Center. You can see Fellows at Meet a Scientist events during Curiosity Days highlighting their work, at Science in the City lectures, and during the Science and a Movie program.

Dr. Davis has been a part of the Science Communication Fellowship program since 2014. She has participated in a variety of Science Center activities that have positively influenced her work:

“The Fellowship program is SUCH a two-way street, which I think is awesome. So many scientists want to be able to interact with the public. It gives our work meaning, we get to talk about topics that are interesting to us, and we can learn what’s important to the general public. In turn, people get to learn about what exactly it is we do. And children have the chance to view scientists as members of their own community.”

With the generous support of donors like you, the Science Communication Fellowship program will continue to ignite curiosity. Thank you for bringing scientists and community members together!



Why I Give

"I believe in science and technology and in inspiring our future generations to go into these fields to support and enhance the quality of life for all of us!"

– Becky B.



"Pacific Science Center has simulating displays and activities that raise questions of why, how, and what is possible in the future in such a context that all three generations of our family benefit in terms of not just knowledge, but also increased curiosity and comfort with unknowns."

– Elizabeth H.

"Pacific Science Center is important for science education in our community."

– Mike D.

Why do you invest in hands-on science experiences? Share your story by reaching out to Annual Fund Manager Samantha Walter at (206) 269-2139 or swalter@pacsci.org.



Girls' Night Out: Setting Up Girls for Success in STEM

Did you know?

21% of girls say their parents have encouraged them to become an actress, while only 10% say their parents have encouraged them to think about an engineering career.

This could be a reason why girls begin to lose interest in STEM during middle school. And this leads to a severe lack of women representation in STEM fields. But thanks to your support, we have created a program to help introduce girls to STEM careers.

Girls' Night Out is a 3-hour special event at Pacific Science Center. We work to inspire curiosity in girls grades 5–8 as they explore the potential of STEM careers. The program empowers girls to achieve success in STEM subjects and build career-relevant skills.

This brand-new initiative kicked-off on March 9 as part of our Women in Technology Series. Highlighting a variety of careers in technology, the series features STEM professionals whose research focuses on innovative technologies.

The March event highlighted Jessica Turner, a Virtual Reality software engineer at Pixvana, a Seattle-based startup. Jessica is working to build a video creation and delivery platform for virtual, augmented, and mixed reality. Throughout the evening, the girls learned about Jessica, her career, and had the chance to experience real-world applications of VR.





During one of the experiences the girls experimented with virtual reality. After putting on the headset, they became immersed in a town where they could explore a home. Without ever leaving the Science Center, they passed through doorways that took them into fully furnished rooms — complete with a house cat lounging about. They could even reach out and touch the some of the objects around them (despite not being able to see their own hands through the headset).

For many of the girls, it was their first time experiencing this kind of technology. And this unique, hands-on interaction is what the program is all about. As a donor, your continued generosity makes programs like Girls' Night Out possible. Thank you for giving girls the opportunity to ignite their curiosity!

A Milestone for Science On Wheels

Each year Science On Wheels visits more than 300 schools, inspiring students like Sa. Science educators hit the road with interactive workshops, stage shows, and exhibits that bring science to life for curious minds across the Pacific Northwest. **And this spring the program hit an important milestone: serving more than 50,000 Title I school students during the 2017–2018 school year!** Title I schools have a high percentage of students who come from lower-income families. Without the subsidies that your support provides, many children like Sa would never get to experience a Science On Wheels program. Thank you!

Dear Science Friends,

Thank you for using your time teaching me and the many other students math. I thank you for coming every year and, trying to educate us, and instead of being or sounding sleepy or sad you come on stage being friendly and funny. I also want to thank you for one day of dedication every year. I know it is hard getting up early. my sister always complains about it. But you get up early without complaining and do it happily and drive to our school to teach. Some people would think you're crazy, but I don't because you do it for us. Thank you, again. I look forward to seeing you next year!

From,

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By the Numbers: Access Memberships

Launched in 2016, the Family and Youth Access Membership Programs have increased access to our hands-on science experiences by reaching populations that are traditionally underserved. Available for just \$19 to any family currently receiving public assistance, the Family Access Membership provides full membership benefits for an entire year. Foster families and youth experiencing homelessness can also receive those benefits through the Youth Access Membership at no cost to them.



3,678 number of families enrolled in the Family and Youth Access Membership Program

33% annual growth rate



More than **7,000** children now have access to hands-on science



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