



825 Fifth Avenue SE ♦ Olympia, WA 98501 ♦ (360) 357-9535
www.wsascd.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathy Clayton
kclaytonascd@gmail.com
Office: (509) 270-2907

Vancouver Public Schools iTech Preparatory to receive Student Engagement Award from Washington State ASCD

Olympia, WA July, 2015 – The Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (WSASCD) has announced that Vancouver Public Schools iTech Preparatory will receive the Student Engagement Award for 2015. The Student Engagement Award is intended to recognize educators who contribute to providing a school where students are actively engaged in learning and are connected to the school and broader community. The award will be accepted by Principal Christina Iremonger at a district event this fall.

Vancouver iTech Preparatory is committed to student engagement through its problem-based, project-based and practiced-based approach to STEM learning. On a typical day, students will be engaged in research, design and deep discussion on projects in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Teachers guide and provide critical feedback to students, while infusing standards-based concepts into exciting, real-world projects. Students work alongside STEM professionals to engage in, research, innovate, design and build solutions to scientific and societal problems. Clubs and culture groups meet outside of school hours, as well as after the 1st period block on Mondays. This year they had the following ASB and non-curricular clubs: Yearbook, Raven (Art Publication), Adobe Tricks, ASB, National Honor Society, Book Club, Math Club, Key Club, Healthy Options, Journalism, Astronomy, and We Day. Many teachers also provide time before school, after school and on Saturdays for students who are interested in learning how to do soldering and circuit board construction, sustainability projects, 3D printing, robotics, and content-based tutoring.

Students who engage with STEM professionals in meaningful ways tend to stay engaged in STEM education, and iTech aims to facilitate and maximize those meaningful connections through a variety of school partnerships. For their forensic science projects, they partnered with Washington State Patrol, Clark County Sheriff's Department, and Vancouver Police Department. Each of these groups shared a different perspective on reconstruction from the stand point of vehicular collisions to forensic chemistry applications to the use of technology for disarming bombs. Students not only used this information in their Arts and Design II course where they completed forensic portraits and anatomical facial reconstruction, they also infused the information into their Physics and Chemistry classes. Other community partners include LSW Architects, Smith-Root Engineering, Washington State University Vancouver, Clark College, Share House, Kiwanis Club and the Mount St. Helens Institute. In a current agreement with Washington State University, undergraduate students volunteer in iTech science and math classrooms, while earning university credit. They assist, inspire, and tutor students inside and outside the iTech classroom.

With a 1-to-1 laptop program, students have access to dynamic content outside of the traditional textbook and collaborate with peers and teachers any time and any place. Vancouver iTech Preparatory also offers access to courses at Clark College and Washington State University – Vancouver, a unique model for partnership with two post-secondary programs that is getting nationwide attention. Finally, student engagement in 21st Century skills is deeply enhanced by their semi-annual Demonstrations of Learning to public audiences in the Vancouver community—events which allow their students to showcase and communicate their learning to a broader audience.

Founded in 1956, the Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) is a community of all educators committed to promoting promising practices to ensure ALL students are safe, healthy, engaged, supported and challenged.

###

Kathy Clayton
Executive Director
WSASCD

Janet Regge
President
Renton
School District

Dr. Ismael Vivanco
Past President
Entiat and Palisades
School Districts

Dr. Sue Ann Bube
Seattle
University

Celina Brennan
Cheney
School District

Brad Brown
Kent
School District

David Cooke
Washougal
School District

Christie Christman
South Kitsap
School District

Dr. Anthony Craig
Marysville
School District

Hannah Gbenro
Tacoma
School District

Kurt Hatch
North Thurston
School District

Jennifer Klaus
Richland
School District

Kevin Parr
Wenatchee
School District

Anastasia Sanchez
Toppenish
School District

Dr. Keith Lambert
Whitworth University

Marissa Rathbone
OSPI

Marie Verhaar
Tacoma
School District