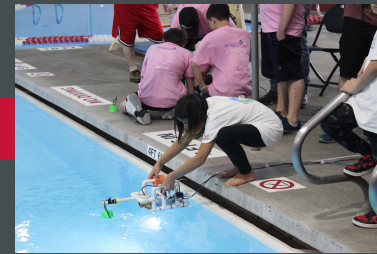
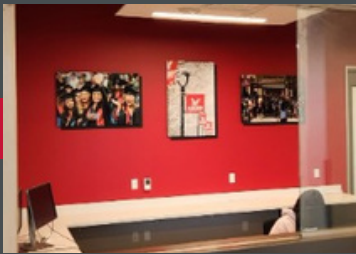


# “SEE” STEM NEWSLETTER

March 2025



Let's revamp and strengthen College communication! Send any updates, department news, student stories, open seminar series, and events to [jcarrothers@ewu.edu](mailto:jcarrothers@ewu.edu).

[Newsletter Archive](#)



March challenge: Make your own joy!



Team members left to right: Nathanael De La Rosa, Jack Barter, Lucas Erickson, June Turner, Isaac Bishop, Lily Chrisman, Dustin Bucholtz, Adam Murphy

The Spokane Valley Tech **CyberPatriot team** concluded a very successful 2024-25 campaign by finishing 2nd in the nation in their division! CyberPatriot is a 4 round competition where students work as a team to secure computers, perform computer forensics, and set up secure services on computers. The first two rounds focus on seeding and the last two rounds determine bracket rankings.

The SVT team continued to grow and get stronger throughout the year. In the seeding round, the team finished 6th in Washington and was seeded into the Gold Bracket. In the Gold Bracket, the team ended up placing 1st in Washington and making it to the 4th round where they ended up first in Washington and 2nd place out of all Gold teams in the nation.

CyberPatriot is a competition that has over 2,000 teams starting the season, then the gold division was formed with 900 teams nationwide, and 15 in Washington and then in the final round over 200 teams nationwide competed.



# Celebrations



K12 STEM Nights

## Outreach

Big thank you to Viktoria, Ashley, Melissa, Phil, Jennifer Leaf, Jennifer Waldo, Nigel, and all for sharing community outreach and photos!



5th and 6th grade Kids Day Basketball Game STEM and MESA Halftime show! 3



## Other Outreach Happenings!

Name of Booth/Company Name:  
SIAM student Chapter

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- Jefferson STEM Night (SIAM and WiSE)
- Chris Nielsen presented his research for students at the MESA Center as a way to motivate students to work on things they are interested in.



- Math Faculty presented their research at the MESA Center as a way to show students what kind of research they can do while at EWU, what tools they need, and how to proceed with finding a topic. (Feb 2025)
- Wilson STEM Night (SIAM and WiSE - Feb 2025)
- Centennial Middle School STEM Night (SIAM and WiSE, Feb 2025)





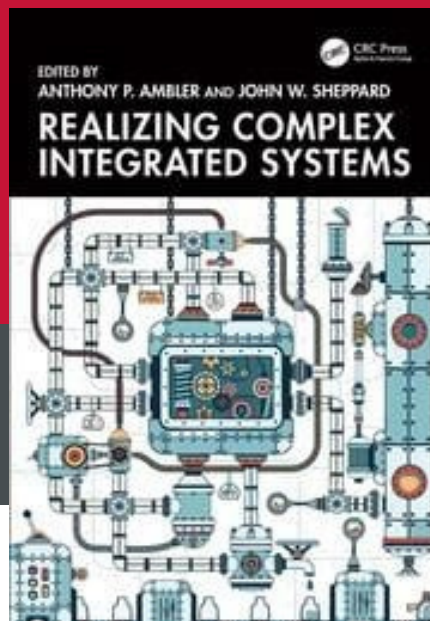
## Faculty Publications

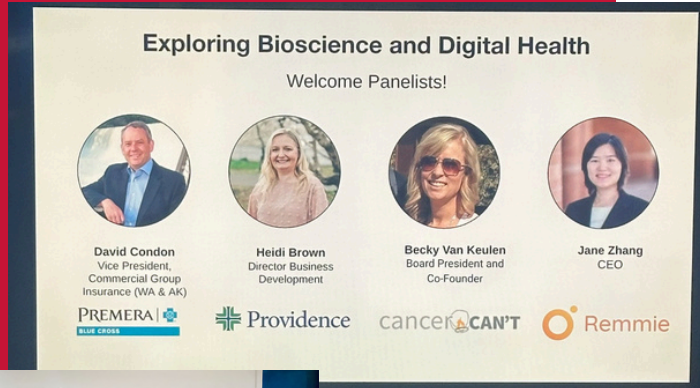
Congratulations to Dr. Christian Hansen for his contribution to the newly published book *Realizing Complex Integrated Systems* by CRC Press!

CRC Press is a global publisher in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine founded in 1903 and has been a division of Taylor & Francis since 2003.

Following a networking chance encounter with one of the book editors John Sheppard during a conference Keynote Speaker event in Harbin, China in 2017, Dr. Hansen worked for over three years to finalize this work.

[Check out the submissions and abstracts for Chapter 14 Reliability and Chapter 15 Availability here](#)





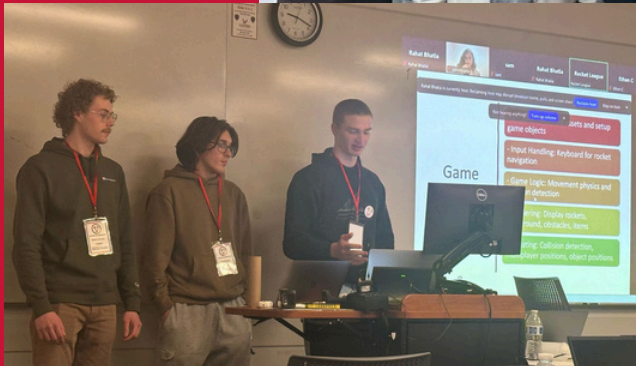
Left: Jennifer Hicks and Dr. Jane Zhang, MBA and CEO of Remie

Enjoy [this article on Inside EWU](#) about the EWU students performing with the Spokane symphony. The photo is of Emanuel Skirda, one of our ME students, and another ME student Matthew Norman plays the trumpet! Let's share the news that EWU students can study and play music too!





# Student Engagement



**Build With AI: CodeQuest 2025, a hackathon organized by Google Developer Group on Campus at Eastern Washington University on February 15, 2025, at the Catalyst Building, Spokane, WA.**

The event brought together 40+ students, offering them an opportunity to develop their ideas into projects, collaborate with peers, and engage with industry professionals. Participants worked individually or in teams, exploring applications across various domains.

We were honored to have Gurbinder Gill, Co-Founder of Corvic AI, deliver a tech talk on "LLMs: A Cog in the Machine or the Whole Engine?", providing valuable insights into AI's evolving role.

The competition included a 10-hour coding window, followed by presentations and judging. We extend our gratitude to our judges and mentors—Elliott Maguire, Anre Tanner, Parul Gupta, Andrew Upton, Trevor Morris, David Sergio, and Steven Harper—for their time, expertise, and support in evaluating projects and guiding students.

The following teams won based on the evaluation rubric, which assessed their projects on presentation, best practices, features, user experience, innovation, and overall impact:

- 1st Place – Rocket League (EWU)
- 2nd Place – Sugar Slayers (EWU)
- 3rd Place – Solo Dev (EWU)
- 4th Place – Toaster Fish (High School)
- Judges' Favorite – Sam (GU)

A special acknowledgment to Caleb Stewart and Andrea Diaz for their efforts in organizing the event. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Sanmeet Kaur, our Club Advisor, for their continuous guidance and support.

We are grateful to Google for providing the funding and resources that made this event possible. The positive engagement from students, mentors, and industry professionals reinforced the impact of AI-focused hackathons in fostering innovation and technical growth.





# Foundation Successful Alumni



## Successful Alumni-James Wilson, BS Computer Science 2009 Minor in Physics

James has over two decades of experience in tech, leading engineering teams in building cloud-based solutions. His expertise includes container orchestration, high-speed data transport, FinOps, and cloud-native architectures. Currently, he leads the engineering team at nOps, creating automated cloud optimization solutions for AWS. Outside of work, James serves on several academic advisory boards, mentoring students and promoting diversity in STEM education. He is the current chair of the EWU Computer Science Professional Advisory Board.

## Recent Gifts Over \$10,000 to CSTEM!

- Jim & Vee Martin - \$10,000 to CSTEM Interclub Student Council Fund
- Rasmuson Foundation - \$20,000 matching funds to the Martin's gift (above) to CSTEM Interclub Student Council Fund
- Justin & Meghan Terry - \$10,249 to Cybersecurity Student Opportunities Fund
- Microsoft matching gift of \$10,249 made possible by the Terry family

## Build our Future

Please consider making a gift to benefit the EWU College of STEM.

Jennifer Hicks would be delighted to provide you with personalized, meaningful opportunities to support EWU students and the College of STEM. We need your help to reach our \$100M fundraising goal for the Build our Future Campaign!



Jennifer J. Hicks, '94 CFRE, CAP®  
Director of Philanthropy  
College of STEM  
EWU University Advancement  
jhicks21@ewu.edu  
509-359-6979 Office  
509-224-4049 Mobile

Build Our Future: The Campaign for Eastern  
<https://www.ewu.edu/buildourfuture/about>

Make a gift today at  
<https://www.ewu.edu/give/>



## Novelis Aluminum STEM Scholarship Fund established February 18th

Novelis Aluminum is a leading sustainable aluminum solutions provider and a world leader in aluminum rolling and recycling.

Novelis Aluminum Spokane pledged \$35,000 to the Eastern Washington University Foundation to establish a new STEM scholarship fund. The fund will be divided into five \$1,400 awards per year, one for a Chemistry major, two for majors in Engineering and two for participants in the EWU MESA program.

Left to Right:  
Jocie Cracraft, Megan Durfey, Delaney Putnam,  
Dr. David Bowman and Jennifer Hicks



Delaney Putnam, double major in Chemistry & Environmental Science EWU Class of '22 from Novelis Aluminum Spokane, and her colleagues, Megan Durfey and Jocie Cracraft toured the CSTEM building on January 9th with Jennifer Hicks, director of philanthropy and Melissa Graham PhD, director of MESA with the Dean of the College, David Bowman, PhD leading the way. They were impressed by the facilities and the outstanding faculty.

Delaney was excited to see former professors Nigel Davies, MS, Melissa Graham, PhD and Carmen Nezat, PhD while touring the college!



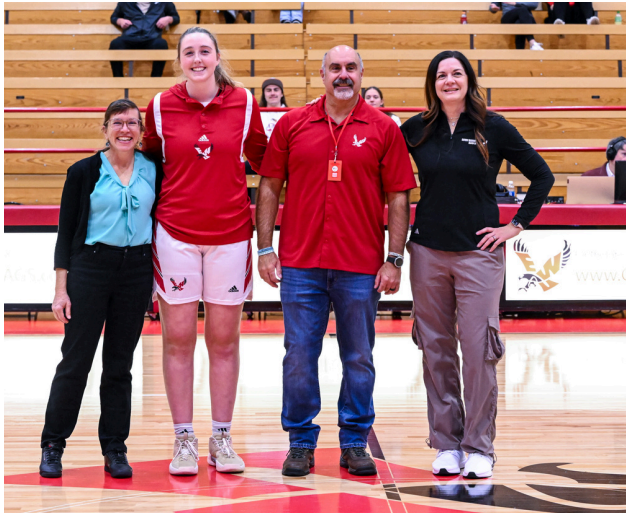
Delaney Putnam and  
Melissa Graham



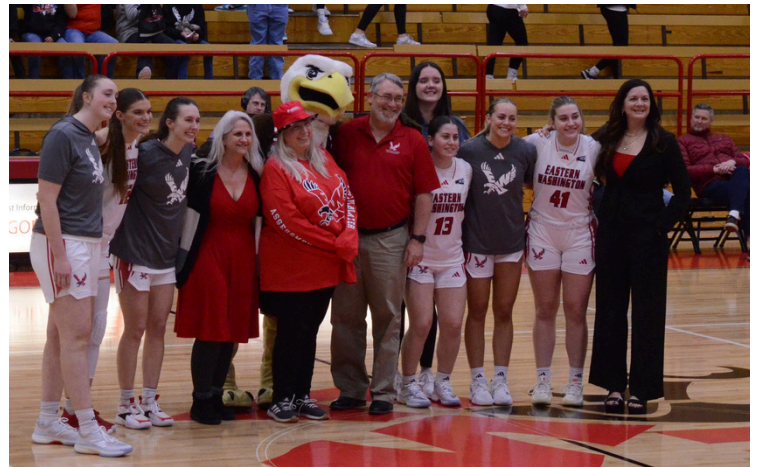


College of Science, Technology,  
Engineering & Mathematics  
Eastern Washington University

# Congratulate our honorary basketball coaches in CSTEM!



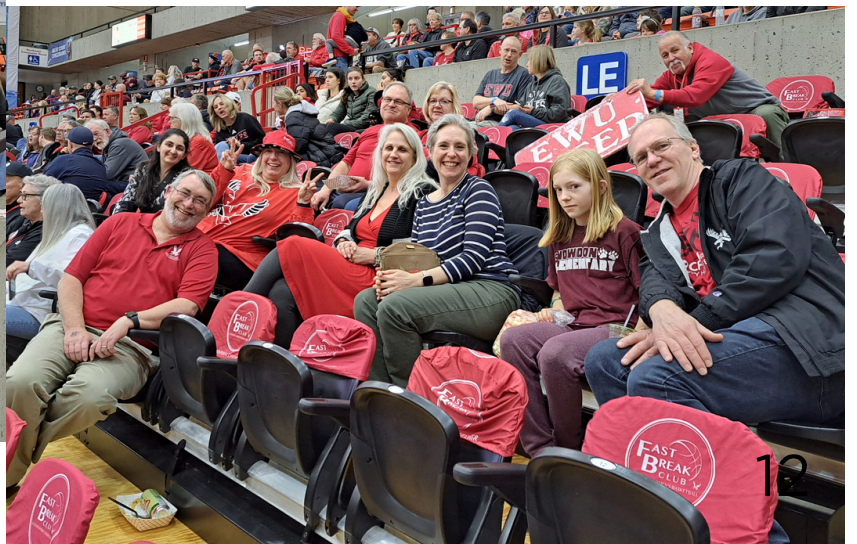
Berenice Emehiser - Nov 17 2024



Sherry Mowatt, Jen Waldo,  
and David Bowman - March 3 2025



CSTEM Night - Thank you Jen  
Walke and Biology!



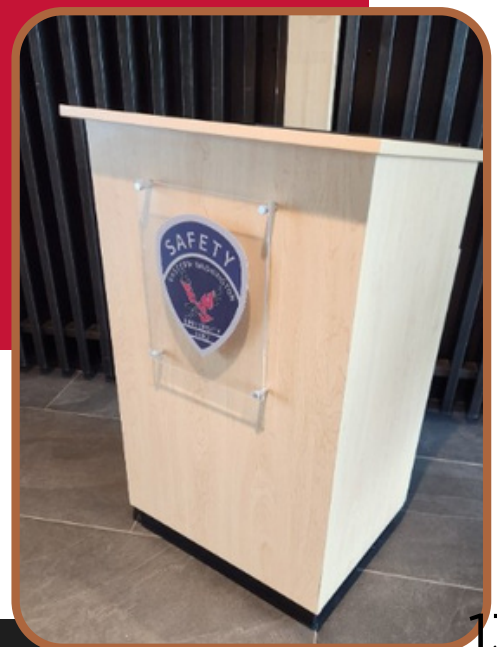


- 4D Lab Design Technician Kirk Reinkens shared several ways new technology has impacted the Design classroom.
- Meg Lybbert's Game Design class is using a new CO2 Laser to create prototype dice faces - dice design by Neon Kaiser



- Student Design Cassie Borders worked with Reinkens to update the EWU Catalyst Security Badge.

Check it out! Installed in an acrylic frame on the security podium in the Catalyst Atrium!



Alumni Valencia Smith wrote to Jenifer Walke to share their success story and memories of EWU.

"I'm here with a long overdue update from the last 2 plus years in the peace corps. I am so appreciative of you, for both your guidance and being one of my references as I just closed out an incredibly fulfilling two year service. I am still trying to figure out how to put into words what I am feeling after a rollercoaster two years, but it was such an amazing and unforgettable experience. I made many new lifelong friends with other PCVs and locals, learned so much and am feeling lucky to have had such a special experience.

I spent the past two years as a youth health and well-being volunteer in an indigenous region of Panama, where I taught about topics ranging from self-esteem to sexual education in middle school and collaborated with community members to further their learning. I was part of the first group in the health sector in Panama and got to train new volunteers and strengthen the new program. I learned the ins and outs of panamanian culture, specifically of the Ngäbe people I learned to live as they do and the joys that come from being a part of and being accepted into a different culture and community. ...





# Biology

## Student Story

...Apart from the technical work, I learned so much about the indigenous culture and language that I wasn't quite ready to leave it behind just yet. I ended up extending my service as a peace corps response volunteer, and I am in Panama for another year working with a local organization. Their goal is to facilitate knowledge about health and well being to local schools and at their pregnant women's shelter. I am working to expand their resources and use my knowledge of the indigenous people in the area to bridge gaps in understanding. My first two years in Panama were challenging yet inspiring, as I am sure you understand and I am excited for what will come during this third year."



Pictured left:  
Hosted a  
collaborative day of  
learning about  
women reproduction  
and making reusable  
menstral pads

Photos: Valencia  
assisting community  
members harvest rice  
and bananas.

Soap making classes  
hosted by Valencia



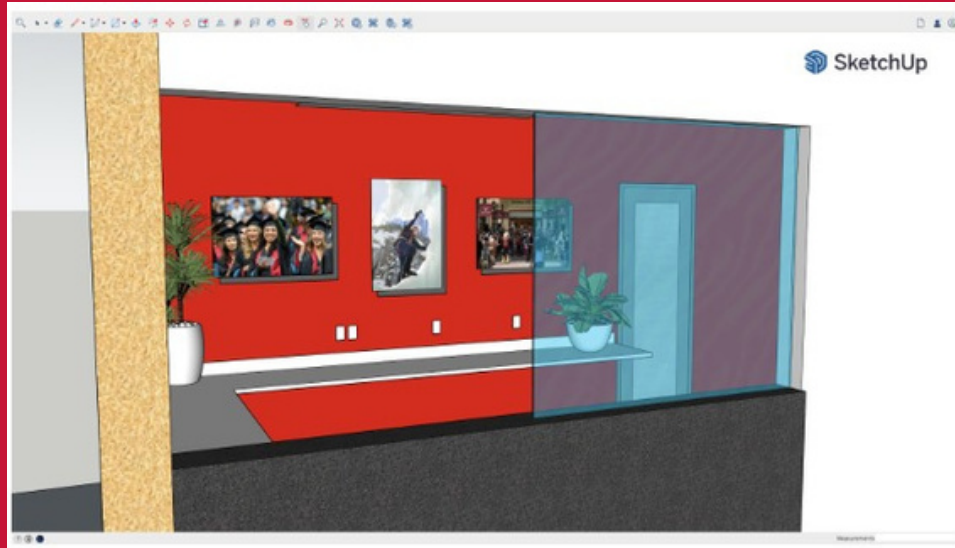


Do you think you have what it takes to be a crime scene technician? EWU Forensics Club and Chem 140 hosted a blood splatter lab with Dr. Gontz, along with a tour at the Spokane Crime Lab.





- Student Designer Fabian Meza-Cera also worked with Reinkens, using SketchUp, to prepare large-scale photos for printing, mounting, and installation in Catalyst's new third floor welcome space.



- Lecturer Sam Mills's Zine and Publication Design class recently made Risograph Zines. Students used their previous work as inspiration for content, then (with the expertise of Reinkens on the 4D Lab's Risograph Machine) made two-color prints to see their "old" work as new. Be on the lookout for these tiny books at Spokane Zine Fest at the end of May!





Marilyn Smith received the CSTEM Undergraduate Research Award recently (Big Thanks to the CSTEM Dean's Office and donors!) and continues her research on local granites by conducting microprobe analyses of mineral from local granites to decipher the temperature and pressure during formation. We are also hoping to conduct U/Pb aged determination of zircon minerals to figure out when the granite crystalized so Marilyn can take an additional 18 samples we have analyzed for a regional study on granitic rocks for our area. This has implications for faulting (earthquakes), our amazing tectonic history, and economic geology deposits (like gold and copper) in the area.

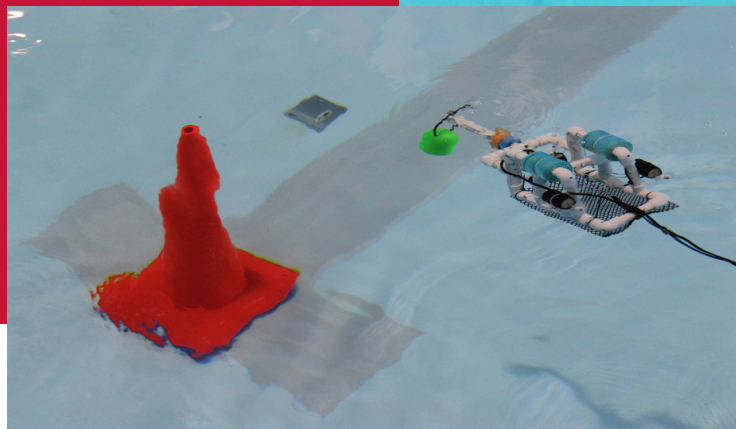
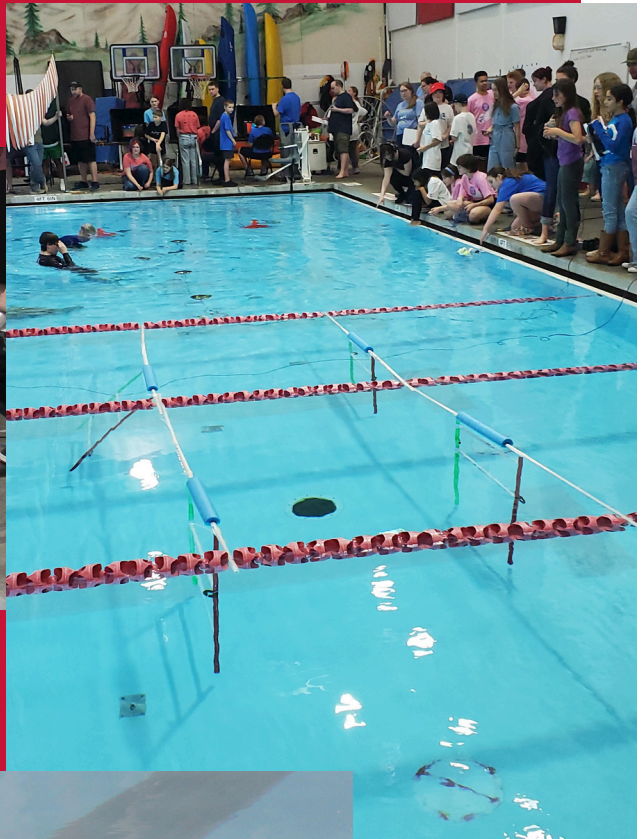
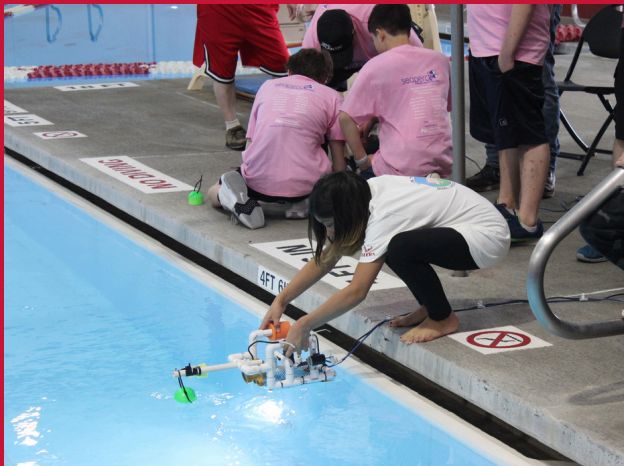
Also, Jerusha Hampson received a Youngs-Clawson Environmental Studies Award from EWU for her work PFAS in surface waters of the West Plains.



Marilyn  
hitting a  
rock

ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) students hosted an annual **SeaPerch** event on Feb 22 at the EWU pool!

- 18 kid teams
- Total of 50 participants
- 3 qualifying teams for Nationals!







On February 13th, Melissa Graham and two MESA Students, Kayla and Jerome, traveled to Olympia to share the inspiring work WA MESA is doing with state leadership.

Pictured here are Rep. Timm Ormsby, Sen. Marcus Riccelli, Rep. Joel McEntire, and Sen. Leonard Christian who met to learn how MESA is empowering students to strengthen Washington's STEM workforce.



Thank you to Marie Sullivan for organizing the visit, and to Terry Sullivan for hosting the EWU team.



[inside.ewu.edu/mesa/](https://inside.ewu.edu/mesa/)

The two remarkable EWU MESA students, Kayla and Jerome, did an amazing job of sharing their MESA stories.

