



Our students will lead and shape the future

News release

Jan. 6, 2016

Dana Riley Black to oversee STEM and partnership programs

Black, currently Director of [Logan Center for Education, Institute for Systems Biology](#), will replace John Aultman who is now Governor Inslee's Executive Policy Advisor for Higher Education and Workforce Development



Dana Riley Black, M.Ed., Ph.D, has accepted the district's offer to replace John Aultman as executive director of STEM, partnerships, and legislative affairs. In this role, she will maintain and build the district's kindergarten-through-high-school STEM momentum. She will continue forging partnerships making it possible for students to intern with industry and business and for teachers to be summer externs in industries related to subjects they teach.

"Working with us, Dana will assure all students have access to high quality STEM education experiences and resources," explained Superintendent Gary Cohn. "She will also continue building partnership programs and cross-community support for professional development and experiences for our teachers. She will help secure and manage partnership-focused grants from federal, state and corporate groups. In short, she will be doing for our district what she has been doing for more than a decade at the state and national level. Our community is very fortunate to have Dana join the district's leadership team."

Black will be stepping into a district role launched just two years ago and made possible then by a local consortium grant.

In November 2013, The Boeing Company, city of Everett, Frontier Communications, and Providence Health and Services, in concert with Everett Public Schools Foundation announced a two-year, \$200,000 grant to help jump start the district's kindergarten-through-high-school STEM program.

One month later, [John Aultman](#) was hired to direct the STEM program. Under his leadership and reorganization of the district's Career and Technical Education and science programs, the district has integrated STEM learning at all schools and at all grade levels. For example:

- Computer science is offered at every high school.
- Robotics is a club or a class at each of the district's 26 schools, and 39 different teams from those schools compete in Washington FIRST robotics.
- [AP Capstone](#) will be in all three comprehensive high schools by fall 2016. The two-year, rigorous course immerses students in problem-solving, critical thinking and real-world research with industry mentors.
- Today 13 different TEALS ([Technology Education and Literacy in Schools](#)) volunteers are pairing with district high school teachers. TEALS volunteers are computer science professionals from a range of professions who are team-teaching computer science.

(more)

“The news of John’s departure sparked a lot of interest around the state,” Cohn noted, “and I was delighted to learn of Dana’s interest.” She has spent a decade with the Institute for Systems Biology – having been recruited there in 2005 by [Dr. Leroy Hood](#), the institute’s president and man whose team is credited with creating the DNA gene sequencer and synthesizer.

“Dr. Black is familiar with our district in many ways. She has been involved in Everett Public Schools’ system-wide science and math education reform work. A state Math and Science Partnership award supported our district’s middle and high school science teachers. An award from the Boeing Company supported the district’s middle and high school math teachers. These awards exemplify how she has sought, secured and managed a number of state, national and corporate grants supporting STEM education reform.

“In a note to us about this position, Dr. Black commented about our school district and how much she looks forward to working with us, ‘The reputation of Everett Public Schools is outstanding, particularly as related to its commitment to STEM teaching and learning. For this reason, I am both excited and humbled to join the district and its STEM team in continuing the great work that John has launched.’”

Background

Black earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Washington and a M.Ed. in Science Education and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Curriculum Studies from Miami University.

Through graduate school, she worked for the Principal Investigator of Ohio’s NSF-funded Statewide Systemic Initiative, Project Discovery – a systemic initiative supporting middle school mathematics and science teachers across Ohio.

During her post-graduate appointment at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, she developed physical science curriculum and televised professional development experiences for teachers of mathematics and science.

Before joining the Institute for Systems Biology, she worked for five years at the University of Washington. There she established UW’s K-12 Institute for Mathematics and Science Education. This work coordinated the university’s mathematics and science outreach efforts with reform work in the region.

In her current work, Black established programs and infrastructure at Logan Center. These programs are self-sustaining and leverage expertise from Logan Center staff, consultants and volunteers.

Black serves on the boards of Washington MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement), Washington FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), the Governor’s STEM Education Innovation Alliance.

She is also a third generation Girl Scout leader.

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For more information:

[Mary Waggoner](#), Director of Communications, 425-385-4040

[Tony Byrd](#), Associate Superintendent, 425-385-4050