



NEWS RELEASE

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TWO 2012-2013 SCIENCE CHAMPIONS HAIL FROM EVERETT

Imagine Children's Museum and Principal of Woodside Elementary and honored by Washington State LASER for Science Education Advocacy

Everett, Washington - The Imagine Children's Museum of Everett and Dr. Betty Cobbs, Principal of Woodside Elementary School were recently selected as recipients of the 2012-2013 Science Champions: Science Education Advocate Awards, presented by Washington State Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) a program led by Pacific Science Center, Battelle and Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL). Science Champions demonstrate passion for advancing science education in innovative ways.

Each year, with support from The Boeing Company, Washington State LASER recognizes five individuals, organizations and/or project teams for excellence in promoting science education among either the general public or the education system.

Imagine Children's Museum

STEM educational opportunities for children begin even before school-age in Everett. Imagine Children's Museum connects science to a child's imagination through hands-on activities and an environment that fosters creativity and playful learning. Serving nearly 234,000 children and families from all regions of the state, Imagine Children's Museum integrates science, technology, engineering and math principles into exhibits to develop a child's interest at a young age.

Take, for example, *Air-Mazing Laboratory* where the properties and physics of air are illustrated through a maze of interwoven polycarbonate pipes filled with fast-moving air for guests to see how quickly items travel when they are plopped inside the tubes. Or when guests become a *Science Sleuth* in the program that encourages kids to explore, investigate and discover math and science-based problems through take-home activities.

Through monthly programs such as *i-Engineers*, families are given the opportunity to connect and engage with engineering concepts in real-life applications by solving problems and evaluating results. With a new topic presented monthly, participants can understand and appreciate how

science and engineering impacts multiple aspects of daily life. During a previous *i-Engineers* session, students from Edmonds Community College and the Lynnwood High School Robotics Club volunteered to help the children construct robotic hands out of drinking straws, string, tape and latex gloves.

Imagine Children's Museum continues to create family-friendly learning environments with *Family Science Night*, an evening filled with activity stations parents and children can explore together, and *Free Friday Night Live*, where free access to the museum is offered for at-risk and low-income families in Snohomish County.

Dr. Betty Cobbs

Dr. Betty Cobbs believes science is not only a tool for unleashing students' curiosity to explore the world around them, but a resource that should be accessible and equitable for students of all cultures, ethnicities and languages.

Cobbs is the leader of a school where 40% of the student body qualifies for free or reduced lunches, many of whom were not meeting state test standards in science. She sought external help to bolster these scores by forming partnerships with neighboring schools that produced test scores in the 98th percentile to share strategies, resources and ideas for teaching science effectively. To engage and empower staff to include science content and methodology in lessons, Cobbs developed collaborative content teams that spanned disciplines and grade levels.

With Cobbs' effective leadership and her vision of school and district-wide science collaboration, Woodside Elementary's Annual Measured Outcome scores in science increased by an impressive 17% in 2011 with 78.4% of students meeting standards, and in 2012, scores rose to 87.6%, with 59% meeting standard at the advanced level. These programs also elevated scores of the large population of students on free or reduced lunches from 48% meeting standards in science to an overwhelming 83.7% in 2011.

Dr. Cobbs continues striving for excellence at Woodside Elementary and exercises her facile foresight as part of the leadership team for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) training, part of the Washington Alliance of Better Schools.

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"Recipients of this year's Science Champion awards demonstrate how a variety of individuals can make a difference in high-quality science education within their community, region and state." said Sonia Siegel-Vexler, interim co-director of Washington State LASER. Awardees ranged from an organization transmitting energy to a center devoted to igniting a child's imagination. The winners' work touched students in elementary and high schools as well as top tier universities to help students and parents "recognize the versatility and necessity of science in their lives."

The other recipients of this year's award are:

- Dr. George "Pinky" Nelson, Retired astrophysicist and Western Washington University professor

- Jim White, Senior Energy Conservation Engineer of Chelan County PUD
- Ralph Rise, Science and Math Teacher at Lake Roosevelt High School

Both Imagine Children's Museum and Dr. Betty Cobbs will receive \$5,000 to be donated to the Imagine Children's Museum the Woodside Elementary PTA respectively. Monetary recognition, as well as funding for the awards process, was generously provided by The Boeing Company.

Detailed information on all awardees can be found at:
http://www.wastatelaser.org/_awards/recipient_1213.asp

ABOUT IMAGINE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Imagine Children's Museum is a non-profit community organization committed to making children's lives better by creating a place where they can playfully learn. Children, ages one through twelve, visit the Museum accompanied by their parent, grandparent, friend, neighbor, teacher or guardian. More than twenty hands-on enriching exhibits provide opportunities for children to discover, explore, create and imagine. Fun, interactive activities such as *i-Engineers* and *Tuesday Tales* are also offered. Since opening its doors in 2004, Imagine Children's Museum has served more than one million children and adults, including over 236,000 in 2011. *Sunset* magazine highlighted Imagine Children's Museum as a "fantastic children's museum" and it is rated a 5-Star Pick by *Lila Guide*. Imagine was selected as the "Best Museum for Kids" in the Puget Sound region by Nickelodeon's *ParentsConnect.com*. King 5 *Evening Magazine* voters have chosen Imagine as one of the top five "Best Fun Places for Kids" in Western Washington. The Museum is located on the corner of Wall and Hoyt Streets in downtown Everett. For hours and admission information, visit www.ImagineCM.org or call 425-258-1006.

ABOUT WASHINGTON STATE LASER

Washington State LASER is a private public partnership working with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. It receives direct financial support from OSPI, Battelle and The Boeing Company.

For more information about Washington State LASER and the Science Education Advocate Awards, please visit <http://www.wastatelaser.org>.

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If you'd like more information about Imagine Children's Museum please call Christy Wilson at (425) 258-1006, Ext. 1015, or email Christy at community@imaginecm.org.

For more information about Washington State LASER please contact Katelyn Del Buco, Pacific Science Center, Seattle (206) 269-5728, kdelbuco@pacsci.org.