

Outstanding Leadership in Science Education Award

The award is presented at the NSELA breakfast, held during the annual NSTA Conference. The award is accompanied by a check for \$1,000 and a plaque donated by Pearson.



MaryMargaret Welch
K-12 Science Program
Manager
Seattle Public Schools, WA

The 2019 awardee, **MaryMargaret Welch**, demonstrates ongoing exemplary leadership in Seattle Public Schools for eight years. She is instrumental in the successful Seattle Schools implementation of the Washington adopted Next Generation Science Standards in collaboration with universities, research firms, and community-based organizations. Her work is transforming the science program into one which provides equitable access to all students, raises the level of instructional capacity for educators, and prepares students for a 21st century economy. Ms. Welch's clear explanations and advocacy to parents, Board members and the community is improving K-12 science education in all Seattle Schools.

One example of her outstanding work is at the middle school level where Ms. Welch provided a 3-year professional development program for all middle school science teachers on implementation of NGSS with a lens on model-based instruction, embedding discourse strategies for sense-making, and 3D formative assessments funded by a Math-Science Partnership Grant. She is a highly effective facilitator who guided teachers to make the shift in their pedagogy that NGSS requires. In collaboration with university partners, she co-developed a robust evaluation system that tracked shifts in teacher attitudes and learning, plus the impact on students' academic progress and improvement in attitudes toward science.

MaryMargaret also led groundbreaking work at the high school level. This included creating awareness of the new standards, aligning curriculum with the standards, developing new NGSS aligned storyline units, and shifting classroom pedagogy.

Ms. Welch's leadership extends to our global world. She is making an important impact in Kenya with her work as the founder and director of SeaVuria. Her nonprofit connects teachers and students in the Taita Hills of rural Kenya with teachers and students in Seattle to promote global awareness. SeaVuria supports teachers with tools and strategies for quality STEM education.

MaryMargaret Welch is described in her support letters as a natural leader. She is a catalyst for change in every task she undertakes. Her passion is to provide equitable access to science experiences that empower ALL students to reach their full potential.



NSELA and Pearson are honored to recognize Ms. Welch's exemplary leadership accomplishments in science and STEM education.