



Central Washington State Fair STEM Building

The South Central Washington STEM Network, in partnership with the Yakima School District, and the Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center sponsor the Central Washington State Fair STEM Building for 10 days each September/October. The STEM Building partners local school districts, businesses, community organizations, Educational Service District 105, Central Washington University, Heritage University, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, Yakima Valley College, and First Nations MESA. Each day of the fair a different business or organization serves as the “Day Sponsor”. The Day Sponsor is responsible for staffing each of the 10-14 hands-on STEM-related activities with volunteer workers. In addition, the Yakima School District Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department hosts an interactive booth featuring the latest in advanced technology for classroom use. The display incorporates various 3-D printers, laser cutters, robotics, etc. Each afternoon students from STEM clubs, robotics classes, drone technology classes, and computer science classes display their technologies and conduct demonstrations. Due to the increase in popularity of the STEM Building, in 2019 the STEM

Building was relocated to the historic Pioneer Hall. The chairman of the Fair Board at the time shared with the Yakima Herald-Republic in an interview that STEM jobs are the jobs of the future and that this year's STEM Building will shine a light on STEM-related career paths in South Central Washington. As a key partner, Pacific Power Corporation provided funding for Career Connected Learning posters to accompany each of the hands-on, interactive displays in the STEM Building. Each year over 50,000 + fairgoers visit the STEM building. We look forward to returning to the Central Washington State Fair in the fall of 2022. If interested in serving as a Day Sponsor organization or STEM Building volunteer please contact Maddy Rogers at maddy.rogers@esd105.org.