



The Washington STEM Rising Star award was created as a state-wide effort to encourage girls in grades 9-11 to reach for the stars and embrace STEM education, career exploration, and personal development in and outside the classroom.

In the spring of 2021, 22 young female students from the ESD 105 region were nominated for the WA STEM Rising Star Award. On June 15th the South Central STEM Network team hosted a celebration honoring all of our nominees. The ceremony included a recognition slideshow, speakers including Angela Jones, CEO of WA STEM, Jasmine James an applied mathematics student at Central Washington University, an inspirational video message from Senator Patty Murray, and a keynote address by the 13th legislative district representative Gina Mosbrucker.

After a regional review of 22 amazing nominations, the top five student nominees were sent to WA STEM for the final decision. The first-place winner receiving \$500 was Sara Khan from West Valley High School, the second-place winner receiving \$250 was Anna Mitre from A.C. Davis High School, and the third-place winner Thalisa Saldivar from Toppenish High School received \$100. Sara Khan was involved in organizing two STEM fairs showcasing school-wide projects. She taught classes to parents on the use of Skyward software and Google Classroom to assist parents in providing support to their students during virtual learning. Sara has volunteered with the STEM Building at the Central Washington Fair. A link to the STEM Rising Star ceremony if you would like to watch it. We are excited to highlight our next generation of STEM leaders!