



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 school year, we are incredibly proud of and inspired by the amazing achievements of our Oregon MESA community.

This year marked the second phase of our Climate Action Pathway, Designing for Environmental Conservation, where students collaborated with local partners to address pressing environmental challenges. From developing robotic devices to remove invasive species, to designing solutions for conserving native habitats, our students demonstrated the power STEM and invention have in creating a more sustainable future.

Oregon MESA's reach also continues to grow. Thanks to long-time MESA supporter and industry leader Angela Jackson, we reached a major milestone by awarding MESA's first alumni scholarship to a PSU student. This year, we also expanded our chapters across Oregon, equipping more students, particularly those historically underrepresented in STEM, with the tools to thrive.

Through our dynamic curriculum, passionate educators, ongoing commitment to family engagement, and strong partnerships with industry and higher education, we've built a robust ecosystem of support that empowers students to innovate, lead, and thrive.

As we move into our 40th year of MESA, I am inspired by the resilience, creativity, and dedication of our community. Thank you for being a part of our mission. Together, we are building a future where equity, innovation, and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

Elizabeth Stock
Oregon MESA Executive Director



THE CLIMATE ACTION PATHWAY

OUR MISSION

At Oregon MESA, we empower students underrepresented in STEM fields to transform their potential into meaningful impact, equipping them with skills, knowledge, and opportunities to explore and excel in technology-based careers. Through our programs, students gain access to higher education and develop the qualities needed to contribute to a diverse and innovative workforce.

We foster a new generation of leaders who are prepared to tackle global challenges with creativity, determination, and a commitment to equity and justice.

5

Counties Served

17

School Districts
Served

35

School Chapters and
Invention Clubs Served

37

Educators Engaged as
MESA Advisors

49

Hours of Professional
Development for
Educators

434

Students Served

OUR PURPOSE

MESA's mission is deeply intertwined with our commitment to equity and environmental action. For the past three years our students have been working on the Climate Action pathway, a three-year initiative designed to equip students with the STEM skills and social awareness necessary to address pressing environmental challenges.

- **Year 1: Environmental Justice (2022-2023):**
Students explored the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on marginalized communities, designing solutions that promote equity and protection for all.
- **Year 2: Environmental Conservation (2023-2024):**
Students partnered with local clients and experts to safeguard natural resources, working on projects that preserve Oregon's ecosystems and biodiversity.
- **Year 3: Environmental Sustainability (2024-2025):**
Students are currently focusing on creating lasting systems and solutions, incorporating cultural, ecological, and technological perspectives to ensure the health of communities and ecosystems for generations to come.

As they explore these pathways, MESA students develop not only technical expertise, but also a profound understanding of the connections between environmental science, equity, and innovation.

By addressing real-world problems, they are learning to lead with purpose and create a more sustainable and equitable future.



THE MESA ECOSYSTEM

The Oregon MESA model mirrors the balance of a thriving ecosystem, where every element interacts and contributes to a shared purpose. Like the natural ecosystems our students strive to protect through their Climate Action Pathway, the Oregon MESA community is built on interconnected relationships that sustain growth, innovation, and resilience. Students, educators, families, college and career partners, and showcase opportunities all function as integral components of this ecosystem, working together to support the development of diverse, equitable, and environmentally conscious STEM leaders.



Through weekly chapter meetings and a curriculum aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), students gain critical thinking and problem-solving skills. They engage in hands-on invention education, tackling real-world challenges with their unique and innovative solutions.



STUDENTS

At the heart of the MESA ecosystem are our students, historically underrepresented in STEM. Just as ecosystems rely on biodiversity for resilience, MESA thrives on the diversity of its student community. MESA not only builds students' technical expertise but also fosters confidence, improving grades and graduation rates. Our students represent the emerging leaders of tomorrow's workforce.



EDUCATORS

Educators are at the center of the MESA ecosystem, guiding and supporting students while facilitating inclusive STEM instruction. With training in invention education and equity-based practices, MESA teachers provide hands-on learning experiences that spark curiosity and foster creativity. Teachers are provided with professional development opportunities, access to cutting-edge curricula, and tools for empowering diverse learners.



By collaborating with peers and applying innovative instructional strategies, educators help cultivate an environment where every student can thrive. Just as ecosystems depend on healthy leadership to flourish, MESA relies on its educators to nurture the next generation of problem-solvers.



FAMILIES

Families form the root system of the MESA ecosystem, extending its reach into students' homes and communities. Through family engagement programs, MESA ensures that the support students receive in the classroom is reinforced in their personal lives.



Families are invited to celebrate their students' achievements, engage in learning opportunities, and become advocates for their success. By involving families, MESA strengthens its ecosystem, creating a robust network of support that fosters resilience and encourages long-term academic and personal growth.



College and career experiences empower students to envision a future where their skills contribute to sustainable and innovative solutions.



COLLEGE & CAREER

MESA connects students to the broader STEM ecosystem by building branches to higher education and career opportunities. Students explore diverse disciplines, gaining insights into cutting-edge technologies and emerging industries. Partnerships with colleges, universities, and industry leaders open doors to internships, mentorships, and collaborative projects.



COMPETITIONS & SHOWCASES

Just as ecosystems adapt and evolve through collaboration, MESA competitions and showcases inspire students to push boundaries and grow as STEM innovators. Competitions challenge students to apply what they've learned in meaningful, tangible ways, reinforcing the interconnected themes of environmental justice, conservation, and sustainability.



Our yearly competitions for Demo Day, MESA Day, and the National Engineering & Design Competition serve as hubs of collaboration and innovation within the MESA ecosystem. These events allow students to showcase their creativity, teamwork, and technical expertise while addressing global challenges.

OUR IMPACT

This year, Oregon MESA's impact has rippled through our community, nurturing students' academic and personal growth while fostering connections that extend beyond the classroom. Survey data collected in partnership with Education Northwest highlights MESA's transformative influence:

80%

students report increased confidence in problem-solving and understanding real-world issues

students feel a sense of belonging to the STEM world

91%

94%

students report increased leadership opportunities

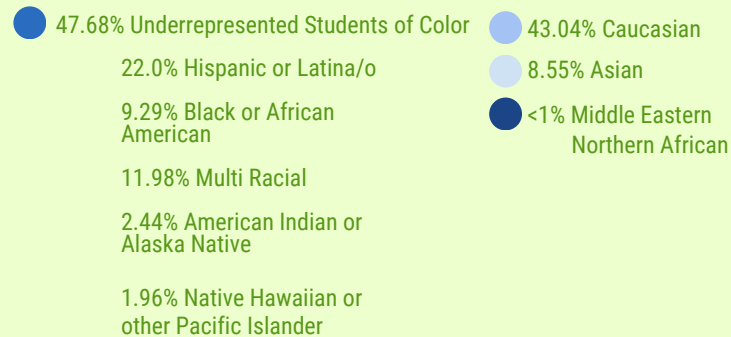
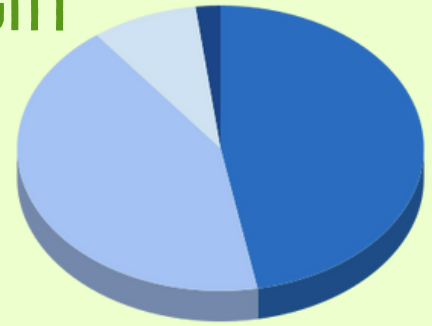
students say the MESA program is fun and engaging

96%

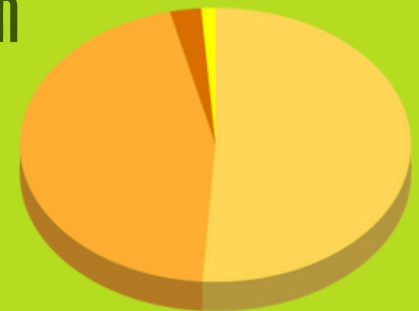
These outcomes reflect MESA's emphasis on social-emotional learning during a time when many students report feeling disconnected. Together, these achievements underscore how Oregon MESA's ecosystem of support—students, educators, families, partners, and competitions—continues to inspire a new generation of leaders committed to innovation, equity, and environmental stewardship.



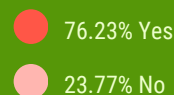
ETHNICITY



GENDER



FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH



Note: All data is self-reported student data. Percentages are only of those who reported.



JOIN US

We wouldn't be able to provide our impactful programs without the support of our dedicated partners, volunteers, and staff.

To join the MESA movement connect with us at oregonmesa.org/contact



DONATE

To donate, please make checks payable to Portland State University Foundation and include "Oregon MESA" in the memo. Mail to:

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PO Box 751
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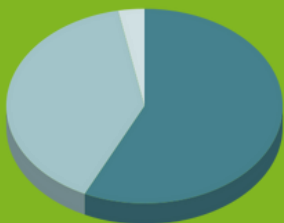
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REVENUE



57 % Foundations & Corporations
40% Government Funds
3% Individuals & Events

EXPENSES



88% Programs
7% Development
5% Administration



Portland State
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