



## VITALS

### → TRAINING AT MANY LEVELS

- At least 548 trainees involved across all LSDF grants since 2007:
  - 27 K-12 students
  - 215 undergraduate students
  - 140 graduate students
  - 108 post-doctoral fellows
  - 58 medical residents and fellows
- 93% of grants to UW and WSU involve trainees
- 72% of grants to non-profit research institutions involve trainees
- 67% of grants to companies involve trainees

## Training the Next Generation of Innovators

The push for STEM education, especially for girls, is critical. Training the next generation of female science innovators is something we all want to invest in. A great example is Abbi McClintic, who benefited from Washington's STEM curriculum and made her way from 15-year-old University of Washington (UW) freshman to aspiring neuroscience and bioengineering PhD student. Abbi attributes her success to training she received while working on an undergraduate research project in Dr. Pierre Mourad's UW lab. That experience, she says, gave her education "a larger purpose and a place to develop desirable job skills."

Over 93% of Life Sciences Discovery Fund (LSDF) grants to UW and WSU involve trainees. This high percentage indicates how seriously these institutions take their educational mission and how deeply embedded mentoring is in their research enterprise. Why does this matter? Because without these programs and mentors like LSDF grantee Dr. Mourad, STEM-educated kids won't progress from high school graduates, to university students, to newly minted members of the Washington workforce.

Abbi is excited about her post-college career options in Washington. "My dream is to bring my skills and passion to a super innovative place like the Swedish Neuroscience Institute or the Allen Institute for Brain Science. But that won't happen unless my peers and I have access to top-notch training and unless Washington keeps supporting the life sciences community as a whole."

Life Sciences

DISCOVERY FUND

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