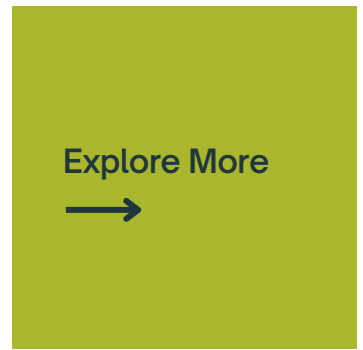
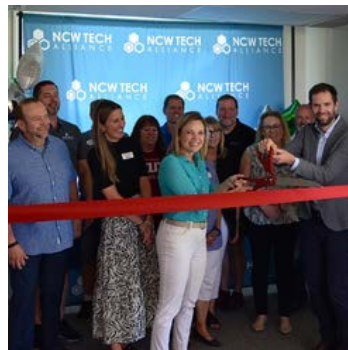


Annual Report 2024

2024 was a year of progress in expanding digital access, fostering innovation, and empowering rural communities through technology. This report highlights transformative stories and partnerships that created pathways for growth and resilience across North Central Washington.



Policy Board



Board President
Walter Thorn
ChargerHelp!



Board Vice-President
Judi Kuntz
Travel Syndication Technology



Julia O'Donnell
NCESD



Yolanda Ibarra
Big Bend Community College



Russ Alman
Wenatchee Valley Senior Center



Ian Fitzgerald
Chelan County PUD



Ian Weyenberg
AWS



Joel Graves
Microsoft



Rachelle Lange
Group14



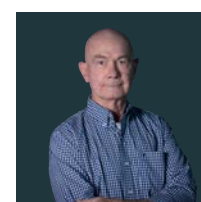
Shon Dempsey



Thomas Kozina



Josef Dunbar
Confluence
Health



Lee Alley



NCW Tech Alliance extends our deepest appreciation to the Board of Directors for their unwavering support and dedication throughout the past year. Each member of the board brings unique professional experience, perspective, and passion to the organization. The ways they invest their time, talents, ideas, energy, and enthusiasm is truly inspiring.

Their vision and creativity drove our reach and impact farther than ever before, and their heart for community kept us centered on the people and places that make North Central Washington special.

They are invaluable technology enthusiasts, advocates for digital inclusion, and champions for entrepreneurship and work alongside the staff to demonstrate their commitment to our mission.

We thank our Policy Board of Directors for their countless contributions and for being such an integral part of our organization. We look forward to continuing our work together to drive positive change and create opportunities for all!



Patron Council & President Emeritus*

Thank you to our 2024 strategic advisors:

- Lisa Karstetter, Microsoft
- Jenny Rickel, Native Network
- Brenda Mandelis, LocalTel
- JC Baldwin, GTC Technical Support
- Ron Brown, Wenatchee School District*
- Robert Pageler, Confluence Health*

About us

NCW Tech Alliance's mission is to bring people and technology resources together to support workforce development, technology adoption and entrepreneurship in North Central Washington. We are passionate about digital transformation and inclusion in rural Washington so people can live and work where they love. We offer high-quality programs that inspire, empower, and connect our community. We extend programs throughout Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan Counties.

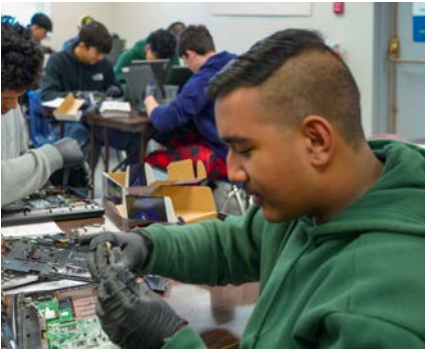
Thank you to all of our generous members, sponsors, and volunteers who helped us make an impact in 2024.



INSPIRE NCW

STEM Education & Workforce

Inspiring the next generation of innovators and critical thinkers by fostering a passion for STEM fields, driving educational opportunities, and creating pathways to success.



Our goal is to ensure equitable access to STEM education, preparing skilled workers and lighting a path toward the region's high-wage, high-demand jobs, many of which require postsecondary credentials and STEM literacy.

INVEST NCW

Entrepreneurship

Investing in visionary leaders and entrepreneurs by providing access to funding, resources, and mentorship, fostering a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem across North Central Washington.



Our goal is to increase access to capital, foster entrepreneurial support, attract and retain innovative talent, and ensure equitable investment opportunities for underrepresented communities, to drive innovation and business growth in our region.

EMPOWER NCW

Technology

Empowering and connecting communities to drive innovation that leverages technology to enhance skills, improve productivity, promote digital inclusion, and ensure equitable access for all.



Our goal is to expand access to technology, internet, and digital skills, enabling equitable opportunities for education, work, and innovation while strengthening the region's economic vitality and resilience.

Letter from the CEO

Dear NCW Tech Alliance Community,

We've had such an outstanding year! I want to express my deepest gratitude and admiration for all of you who have been so generous with your time, talents, relationships, commitments, ideas, and investments in 2024. Together, we've made a profound difference in the lives of individuals and businesses across North Central Washington. By embracing our workforce, entrepreneurship, and technology programs and events, you've empowered our communities in countless ways.

In 2024, NCW Tech Alliance hosted and supported 72 events across the region, strengthening community networks and fostering opportunities for learning, collaboration, and growth. This remarkable achievement wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our incredible team and Board of Directors.

Technology Pillar: Our inaugural Digital Equity Commitments Campaign saw impressive regional engagement. We'll continue this vital work in 2025, and we invite you to join us in advocacy and partnership development with NCW Tech Help and the Digital Access & Equity Coalition, ensuring everyone has the tools to thrive in today's digital world. We're also excited to announce the Annual Cybersecurity Conference on October 8th in Moses Lake enhance regional knowledge about cybersecurity and contribute to a more secure digital environment.

Workforce Development Pillar: Our Community Skills Initiative skills competitions reached hundreds eager to build new technology skills for employment, productivity, and empowerment. In 2025, join us for the AI in Action learning series this spring and the launch of our summer learning competition to explore new technologies and boost your productivity, creativity, and efficiency. We're also proud to continue as a co-lead for the Apple STEM Network, which plays a crucial role in fostering STEM education and career pathways in our region.

Entrepreneurship Pillar: Entrepreneurs found new access to funding, network connections, and resources in 2024 as we announced INVEST NCW. We're excited to host the Latino Founders Conference as a full-feature event in April 2025, providing vital support to Latino entrepreneurs. We've also expanded the Annual Flywheel Investment Conference, now scheduled for May 21–23, 2025, offering more opportunities for innovation and investment for startups.

Our vision for 2025 is clear: to create a more inclusive, innovative, and empowered community. Your dedication has set the stage for even greater achievements. We're looking forward to your continued involvement—as volunteers, sponsors, or members—as we strive to create more opportunities for everyone in our region. Every action you take contributes to a larger movement of empowerment and growth.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us! Together, we're not just adapting to the future—we're shaping it. Let's embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead with the same passion and collaboration that have brought us this far. Thank you for being an integral part of NCW Tech Alliance.

Sincerely, *Dr. Sue Kane*

Staff



Sue Kane
Chief Executive Officer



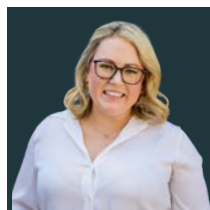
Sarah Sanford
Director of Operations



David Mabee
Director of Marketing



Rosie Martin
Administrative Assistant



Jenny Rojanasthien
Director of Entrepreneurship



Conrad Billman
Technology Program Manager



David Estrada
STEM Program Manager



Juan Servin
Technology Program Manager

2024 Year in Review

NCW Tech growth

NCW Tech Alliance opened a second office in Moses Lake, added additional staff and Board representation

15,000+ miles traveled

NCW Tech Alliance staff traveled across North Central Washington the equivalent of driving across the United States five times!

250+ navigators

Trained through online courses with basic skills like email setup to advanced topics like Cybersecurity to help close the digital divide.

70+ events

From Industry Tours to Cyber Meetups, an AI Expo and Tech and STEM Showcase, and Digital Navigator Trainings -- there was something for everyone!

357 computers

357 new and used computers were gifted to individuals in need through our Computers for Community and Digital Literacy programs.

\$680K+ community reinvestment

We proudly reinvested over \$680,000 into North Central Washington in 2024. These funds have fueled local initiatives, fostered innovation, and driven economic growth, empowering our communities to thrive.

5,000+ attendees

Engaged at events across Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan Counties.

193 graduates

Community Skills Digital Literacy Cohorts empowered individuals with essential skills like device navigation, email setup, and access to resources in Spanish.

100+ members

Business and individual memberships.



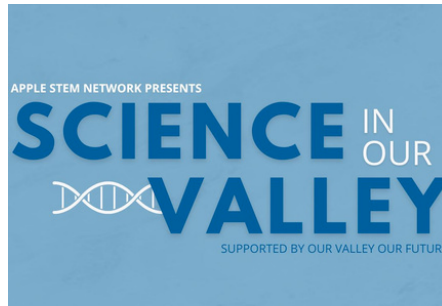
STEM Education and Workforce



Since 2015, NCW Tech Alliance has been a proud co-lead of the Apple STEM Network, which unites local leaders to support regional STEM education and workforce development efforts. The Apple STEM Network reaches more than 50,000 students across the region. In 2024 the Apple STEM Network worked to empower the next generation of innovators and leaders in our region through events like Tech & STEM Showcase, Computer Science Fair, Hour of Code, Science in our Valley series, and Women in STEM.



23rd Annual Innovator Awards
In November, Apple STEM Network Leadership Board members Michelle Morley, Big Bend Community College, and Meleah Butruille, Wenatchee Valley College, presented the (K-12) Future Technology Leader of the Year Award and STEM Scholarships to the AEM Energy Champions from the Wenatchee High School.



Science in Our Valley Series
The seminar series featured local research presentations from agriculture, ecology, energy education, and sustainability fields. Highlights included advancements in apple breeding and postharvest management, digital technologies in vineyards, glacial landform discoveries, and efforts to improve rural health and environmental sustainability.



Computer Science Education Week
The Apple STEM Network celebrated the power of coding and innovation by engaging students, educators, and community members in a series of hands-on learning events. Together, we inspired a passion for technology and opened doors to future opportunities in computer science across North Central Washington.



Computer Science & Tech Fair
The Apple STEM Network hosted the second Eastern Washington CS & Tech Fair at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. This event brought together hundreds of students, educators, and industry leaders to explore opportunities in technology and innovation. Student attendees engaged in hands-on activities, explored career pathways, and learned about the transformative power of tech that's shaping our future.



Summer Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament
Presented by Sabey Data Centers and the Apple STEM Network, the 2024 golf tournament raised scholarship funds to support STEM students and teachers which were presented at the Innovator Awards Luncheon. Thanks to the generous contributions of sponsors, participants, and donors, this event continues to make a meaningful impact on local students and educators.



Tech & STEM Showcase
2000+ students and families enjoyed hands-on activities and learning together at this four-day event as part of the NCW Fair in Waterville in August. Student exhibitors, community-based organizations, workforce training programs, colleges, museums, and even the Pacific Science Center came to showcase the incredible potential of STEM education to inspire youth and light up future career possibilities.

Entrepreneurship



Seventy-one companies from across Washington State competed for investment awards at the 2024 Flywheel Investment Conference. The 3-day event drew in over 340 attendees from 114 unique zip codes. Dopl Technologies emerged as the winner, securing a \$150,000 investment for its groundbreaking telerobotic healthcare delivery. Terrantic received a \$50,000 relocation offer for its AI-powered contextualization engine, and OneCourt earned a \$50,000 investment and the \$5,000 Fan Favorite prize for its accessibility-enhancing sports technology. The conference featured over 35 dynamic speakers and 96% of attendees reported that they made valuable connections, solidifying its reputation as a premier networking and innovation event for Washington State.



‘Día del Fundador Latino’ featured entrepreneurial workshops and networking in Spanish for 80+ attendees in April of 2024.



The 2024 Innovator Award winners were celebrated for their outstanding achievements. Dr. Gautam Nayak, co-founder of Coltrain, received the Entrepreneur of the Year award. FieldClock was honored with the Newcomer in Technology award. Carrie Nordberg of Samaritan Healthcare was named STEM Champion of the Year. Nathan Holterhoff, representing the University of Washington, earned the STEM College Innovator of the Year award, and the AEM Energy Champions from Wenatchee High School were recognized as Future Technology Leaders of the Year.



Entrepreneurial Panels

Three panel events featured Women in STEM, Tech Trailblazers, and Foro Latino de Tecnología, bringing together diverse industry leaders, startups, and professionals to inspire, educate, and provide insights into business challenges, successes, technology adoption, and practical growth strategies, while fostering valuable networking opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Industry Tours

The Grant County PUD, Genie Industries, Winton MFG Compost Works, WSU Sunrise Orchard, US Electrodynamics, Town Toyota Center, and Starr Ranch Growers hosted behind-the-scenes industries tours in 2024. Attendees learned about cutting-edge technology, industry innovations and strategic development plans from local industry experts.

Entrepreneurial Network

NCW Tech Alliance launched a new initiative to empower local start-ups and entrepreneurs with resources, connections, and capital. The network is just getting started and there’s still time to jump in as an advisor, mentor, or investor. Together, we can build an inclusive innovation ecosystem and drive regional growth. Learn more at ncwtech.org/investncw.

Technology Adoption and Digital Inclusion



NCW Tech Help is empowering individuals with the skills that they need to harness technology for learning, productivity, and efficiency. These skills are empowering individuals to find new opportunities for education, healthcare access, skills development, employment, and more.



Digital Literacy Cohorts

In 2024, 193 students completed Digital Literacy skills training in Spanish as part of cohorts in Royal City, Mattawa, Moses Lake, Othello, Orondo, and George. Funded by the Community Health Network of Washington and Microsoft, the program equipped participants with essential tech skills and provided each graduate with a laptop, expanding digital access and opportunities.



Digital Navigator Trainings

NCW Tech Alliance, in partnership with the North Central Educational Services District, trained over 250 Digital Navigators through online and on-demand courses. These trainings equipped community volunteers and frontline staff to expand digital access and foster greater connectivity in their communities. These workshops are sponsored by the Community Health Network of Washington and Thriving Together NCW.



Tech Talks for Nonprofits

60+ regional nonprofits participated in the quarterly webinar series we hosted in partnership with the Nonprofit Practices Institute. Each session featured a content expert who provided practical tools and insights for adopting technology tools. 2024 topics included: website essentials, social media strategies, an introduction to Canva for design, and AI prompt engineering with tools like Copilot.



Community Skills Initiative (CSI) & Skill-A-Thons

As part of CSI, the UpSkill-a-Thon and AI Skill-a-Thon competitions empowered participants with new digital skills. Tech enthusiasts, job seekers, and candidates looking to learn, stay current or advance in their fields took home \$12,000 in cash prizes and earned 2,675 certificates! NCW Tech Alliance also led 4 other nonprofits across the nation to bring technology skilling to their communities.



AI Expo

The 2024 AI Expo brought 300+ business leaders, educators, and community members together to explore the transformative impact of AI through interactive learning sessions that highlighted AI use cases, policies, economic impacts, prompt engineering, multimedia creation, entrepreneurship, and open-source tools. The 2024 AI Expo was sponsored by Microsoft with a networking social sponsored by Native Network.



Cyber Meetups & Cybersecurity Summit

Monthly Cyber Meetups provided lunch, learning and networking for local professionals and the Cybersecurity Summit in October brought together experts and organizations to address critical issues and innovations shaping the future of cybersecurity. This program is offered in partnership with the North Central Educational Services District and sponsored by Microsoft.

Commitments Campaign

50,000+ Impacted

52 organizations and municipalities across Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan Counties made digital inclusion commitments as part of the first regional commitments campaign



View the 2024 Commitments



Digital Inclusion Microgrants

22 cross-sector organizations were awarded microgrants to support their digital inclusion plans. These investments were made possible by funding from Thriving Together NCW. They empowered organizations across North Central Washington to advance digital inclusion in the communities they serve. As part of their digital equity commitments organizations implemented innovative solutions like a mobile technology center, added bilingual resources, offered training and educational workshops, and digital literacy trainings.

TOTAL IMPACT	KEY OUTCOMES	COMMUNITY VOICES	BARRIERS
<p>22 microgrants awarded</p> <p>\$100,000 distributed</p> <p>50,451 individuals across North Central Washington</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridged Digital Gaps: Improved technology access and digital literacy. • Empowered Communities: Inclusive programs for underserved populations. • Enhanced Services: Innovative tools for education, business growth and connectivity 	<p>The Brave Warrior Project: <i>“Thank you for teaching me. If you had not helped me, I would not have known how to register for the services.”</i></p> <p>Safe Families for Children: <i>“Awareness and information are key to helping others who don’t have access to what they need.”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language access • Disabilities • Rural access • Socioeconomic divides

Digital Access & Equity Coalition

The NCW Digital Access & Equity Coalition is local industry, public utilities, government agencies, nonprofit and community leaders working together, collaborating, sharing resources and advocating to ensure all individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status, location, or race, have the tools and skills needed to thrive in the digital age, unlocking opportunities in education, employment, healthcare, and beyond.

NCW Tech Alliance, in collaboration with the NCW Digital Access and Equity Coalition released the 2024 Digital Equity Plan Summary, outlining strategies to expand broadband infrastructure, promote digital literacy, and ensure access to affordable devices across Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Grant Counties.



2024 Financial Summary

Revenue	
FY'24	US\$
Grants	\$1,785,080
Event Sponsorship	\$157,299
Membership	\$39,895
Donations/Other	\$23,060
Total	\$2,005,334

Expenses	
FY'24	US\$
Community Reinvestment	\$681,074
Staffing	\$187,229
Operations	\$456,191
Programs & Events	\$598,331
Total	\$1,922,825

Top Ten Funders

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we receive funding through grants, event sponsorships, membership, and donations. Thank you to the top ten organizations who supported our non-profit programs in 2024:



Annual Partners

We are grateful for the annual partnership of our generous donors who supported our programs in 2024:

Thank You 2024 Members

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Altera | Grant County Industrial Alliance | Numerica Credit Union |
| American Family Insurance | Grant County PUD | Ogden Murphy Wallace |
| Amy Brandon | Group14 Technologies | P2X Studio, LLC |
| Andrew Gohl | GTC Technical Support | PetHub, Inc |
| APR finder | Heirloom Creatives | Pinnacles Prep Charter School |
| April Castle | Holmes Electric | Quincy School District |
| Awdience | Ian Weyenberg | Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce |
| Back40 Advisors LLC | iFIBER | Rueben Mayes |
| Big Bend Community College | innov8.ag | Sabey Corporation |
| Brock Burghardt | JBe Marketing Group | Salcido Enterprises |
| Bryce Smith | Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn & Aywalrd, P.S. | Shon Dempsey |
| Carl Polson | John Davies | Sila |
| Carrie Nordberg | John McLaughlin | SkillSource |
| Chelan County PUD | Jonathan Kellenberg | Smithson Insurance Services |
| Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority | JP Portrait Studio | Speidel Bentsen LLP |
| Chelan Hospitality Inc | Karma Design | Stemilt Growers |
| Chelan Valley Hope | Key Methods, LLC | Success Optimizers |
| Christi Tugwell | Larry LaMotte | Summer Hess |
| Christian Davis | Larson Gross | Technology Impact Solutions, LLC |
| City of Wenatchee | Lee Alley | The Wenatchee World |
| Claudia Backus | Leonard Backus | Thomas Kozina |
| Coltrain | LocalTel Communications | Tim Jenkins |
| Columbia Valley Community Health | Mario Godoy-Gonzalez | Van Doren Sales, Inc. |
| Confluence Health | Mark Simms | Walter Thorn |
| Crunch Pak | Meliesa Tigard | Ward Media |
| Deb Murphy | Michael Defoe | Warden School District |
| Deepwater Technologies | Michelle Johnstone | Washington State Department of Commerce |
| Eastmont School District | Microsoft | Washington State University |
| Emerson Inc | Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce | Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission |
| Emily Straka | MoxiWorks | Wenatchee School District |
| Endsley & Co. | Nancy Grette | Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce |
| Engenovate Technology Corporation | Nathan Beam | Wenatchee Valley College |
| FieldClock | Nathan Holterhoff | Wenatchee Valley Senior Activity Center |
| Fig | Native Network | Winton MFG Compost Works |
| Firefly | NCW Libraries | WSIPC |
| Gene Sharratt | NCWEDD | Yahoo |
| Glenn Adams | North Central Educational Service District | York Baur |

Special Acknowledgements for 2024

We want to recognize the following staff and interns whose contributions made a significant impact for our organization in 2024 and while they've advanced to new roles in 2025, their efforts were instrumental in driving our success. Thank you for your invaluable contributions and commitment to our cause: Manny Rodriguez, Max Payne, Summer Hess, Rodrigo Mezquia, Marcus Miles and Raul Ruiz.

Volunteer Appreciation

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the 60+ community members who generously volunteered their time to support our 2024 programs and events. The invaluable support our volunteers provide has a significant impact on the communities we proudly serve. We'd like to highlight the top five volunteers for their outstanding contributions in 2024: Amy Brandon, Annette Lovitt, Kara Sanford, Molly Hunter and Summer Hess.



Tech Advisors

Thank you to our 2024 technology advisors: Shon Dempsey, Nathan Beam and Amy Brandon.



Volunteer with us!

Visit ncwtech.org/volunteer or email us at info@ncwtech.org to learn how you can get involved and make a difference in your community!

BECOME A MEMBER

INSPIRE | INVEST | EMPOWER

Join us to inspire, empower, and invest in the development of people and communities through technology. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

LEVELS & PRICING

BUSINESS

FOUNDER: \$230
1 - 10 employees

SMALL: \$315
11 - 30 employees

MID-SIZE: \$460
31 - 50 employees

LARGE: \$575
50+ employees

INDIVIDUAL

COMMUNITY MEMBER: \$110
No business affiliation

FLYWHEEL ANGEL INVESTOR: \$500
No business affiliation

NCW Tech Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All memberships are considered a charitable donation.

ncwtech.org/membership

MEMBERSHIP

NCW Tech Alliance members are at the heart of driving technology adoption and fostering innovation across our region. By becoming a member, you are not just supporting an organization—you are investing in the future of our community.

BENEFITS

INSPIRATION & LEARNING

Access valuable resources and events, and learn from technology and industry leaders.

BUILD NETWORK CONNECTIONS

Join a diverse community of professionals and participate in events designed to inspire collaboration and growth.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support initiatives that drive technology adoption, community development, and economic growth.

RECOGNITION & BENEFITS

Gain visibility, enjoy event discounts, receive recognition, and celebrate shared successes.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Fund local programs that promote digital inclusion, education, and entrepreneurship.

PERSONAL CONNECTION

Engage as a volunteer in meaningful activities that support our shared mission.



Connect with us



www.ncwtech.org

info@ncwtech.org

509-661-9000

2025 Preview

Save the Dates:

- Apr. 17 - Latino Founders Conference
- May 21-23 - Flywheel Investment Conference
- August 14 - AI Expo
- October 8 - Cybersecurity Summit
- November 4 - Innovator Awards Luncheon



Ongoing Programs

- Tech Talks for Nonprofits
- Entrepreneurial Panels
- Science in Our Valley
- Cyber Meetups
- Community Skills Initiative
- Digital Navigator Trainings

NEW!

- Networked Podcast
- AI in Action: Empowering NCW
- Digital Skills Community