

# COLLABORATIVE FOR SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL ENGAGEMENT (COSEE) — IMPACT REPORT 2025-26



## COSEE ADVANCES RESEARCH AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING BY TREATING KNOWLEDGE CREATION AS A SHARED ENDEAVOR.

By positioning students and community partners as knowledge producers—not simply recipients of university expertise—CoSEE expands access to the tools, experiences, and decision-making processes needed to shape more just, resilient, and thriving social and ecological futures.

This year, CoSEE expanded its role as a hub for undergraduate research, experiential learning, and community-engaged scholarship while building a scalable model for community-based ecological restoration and research. The center also increased external funding, strengthened interdisciplinary collaboration, and expanded institutional capacity. Together, these efforts created more opportunities for students, deepened partnerships with community organizations, and extended the impact of UW Bothell's environmental learning and research. These connections give students hands-on experience addressing real-world challenges while supporting educators, residents, public agencies, and regional ecosystems.

## KEY IMPACT AREAS

### COSEE FAST FACTS

- > **80+ undergraduate students** engaged over the past 18 months
- > **5 experiential learning pathways** developed
- > **70+ high school students served** through pathway programs
- > **200+ educators participated** in professional learning programs
- > **\$1 million+ in external funding** secured
- > **46 community events** and programs in the last year

## EXPANDED PATHWAYS INTO ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH, LEARNING, AND CAREERS

CoSEE expanded access to environmental learning and careers by building pathways from high school through undergraduate research, internships, community-engaged learning, and graduate or professional opportunities. Students gain hands-on experience, develop leadership skills, and discover pathways they hadn't imagined.

- **Built five undergraduate internship pathways** in GIS, environmental research, restoration, environmental education, and accessible environmental learning, engaging more than 80 UW Bothell students in authentic work with community organizations and public agencies.
- **Secured substantial external investment to grow these opportunities**, translating federal, state,

university, and foundation funding directly into expanded student research, internships, mentoring, and experiential learning.

- **Extended pathways across educational levels**, with EnCAP serving more than 70 high school students in fully funded, dual-credit UW learning and CoSEE professional learning reaching hundreds of regional educators.



## STRENGTHENED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND PLACE-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

CoSEE deepened partnerships with public agencies, municipalities, nonprofits, schools, and community organizations by connecting undergraduate learning directly to real environmental needs. Through restoration,

GIS, ecological monitoring, and environmental data collection, students are producing work that supports regional stewardship and decision-making while gaining consequential, place-based research and professional experience.

- **Restored critical habitat at meaningful scale:** Student-led restoration events and partnerships with State Parks and community organizations helped restore tens of thousands of square feet of habitat across public and private lands.
- **Produced tools partners can use:** Students created GIS layers, updated trail maps, ecological monitoring products, and other decision-support tools used by State Parks and partners to guide management and restoration.
- **Expanded regional environmental monitoring:** Secured \$25,000 to support wildlife monitoring and broader sensor-based environmental research, engaging students in collecting and interpreting long-term ecological data across local landscapes.



## BUILT INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR LONG-TERM IMPACT

CoSEE has strengthened its capacity to grow by securing substantial external funding and reinvesting those resources directly into the UW Bothell community through our programs. This growth is expanding both the scale of CoSEE's programs and the number of students, faculty, and community partners able to participate.

- **Secured more than \$1 million in external funding** to sustain and expand CoSEE programs, including major investments from the U.S. Department of Education, King County Parks, and UW civic engagement funding.
- **Translated funding directly into student opportunities** by expanding paid and credit-bearing internships, undergraduate research, environmental career pathways, and community-engaged learning.

- **Built a stronger foundation for continued growth** by deepening interdisciplinary collaboration across UW Bothell, strengthening community partnerships, and developing new grant-funded programs and proposals that extend CoSEE's reach and impact.

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STUDENTS FIND ENDURING INTERESTS WHEN THEY ARE INVITED INTO REAL AND CONSEQUENTIAL ENDEAVORS, SUPPORTED BY MENTORS AND PARTNERS, AND GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO MOVE FROM LEARNER TO RESEARCHER, EDUCATOR, AND CONTRIBUTOR.

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## JANELLE'S STORY

When Janelle joined CoSEE's Environmental Career Pathways Program (EnCAP), they planned to study salmon. They had never taken a GIS course and had little exposure to spatial analysis. That changed through hands-on projects, mentorship, and opportunities to apply new tools to real environmental challenges.

Janelle went on to map trails and restoration sites, mentor high school students, and lead public workshops that introduced community members to GIS. Along the way, they discovered a passion that reshaped their academic and professional goals.

Today, Janelle is graduating from a master's program in Geographic Information Science, carrying forward a journey that began with a willingness to try something new.

[Read more about Janelle's story on our blog!](#)



## LOOKING AHEAD

CoSEE's priorities for the coming year are to sustain and expand its work through external funding while becoming more deeply integrated into the broader UW Bothell ecosystem.

CoSEE will continue pursuing federal, state, county, and foundation support for undergraduate research, internships, environmental learning, restoration, and community-engaged scholarship.

CoSEE will also strengthen partnerships across campus so that our programs more directly support institutional goals related to student success, experiential learning, research, workforce development, and community engagement.