



IMPACT NW
PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

January 15, 2025

Reser Foundation Review Committee-

It is my pleasure to reflect on the impact that Saturday Academy's Youth Programs have had on the Marysville Elementary School community, for which I was the SUN Site Coordinator for eight years. Through Saturday Academy, the students at Marysville Elementary have been provided residency programs that run the full spectrum of engagement. From recycling art to oceanography, Lego robotics to graphic design. Even photography, and chess!

In my eight years of watching Saturday Academy creatively innovate the after-school residency world, I am most impressed by the teachers and the connection they form with our students over the course of 8 weeks. The passion they have for their subject matter is shared with our students in such an authentic way that our students can't help but feel the same enthusiasm and interest

This work is essential because students are invited to experiment, question, and receive feedback from caring professionals. When teachers connect their curriculum to everyday life, students can see firsthand possible career paths and the influence they can have in the world.

Additionally, the opportunity to learn from a teacher that reflects who you are, is even more critical. Saturday Academy provides this. We had Justin Jones join us as our Chess teacher. Our black and brown boys, in particular, would light up when it's Tuesday and they'd know they are going to be practicing and learning with Justin. All his students feel successful and challenged, but for our black and brown students they are witnessing the world of chess through his eyes and through his voice.

Additionally, for us, as a Title I school, all residencies have been provided...FREE- OF- CHARGE! Saturday Academy represents a life-changing experience.

With gratitude,

Audrey Rozell

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Former SUN Site Coordinator

Marysville ES