

# Hands-on approach brings science to life

By Carol Pawlak

**Edwin is the son of migrant workers in Central Washington. He spends his summers picking apples to help improve his family's financial situation and hopes to be the first in his family to graduate from high school and pursue higher education.**

**Laura is supporting her mother's fight with breast cancer by focusing on the effects of the p53 tumor suppressor gene and channeling her emotions into the song she authored, "She Will Stand."**

Whether pursuing a career in science or acquiring the scientific knowledge to better understand the world around them, students need the best science education we can provide. For each of these unique situations, there is a program supported by the Amgen Foundation. In fact, both of these students have participated in the Amgen-funded Student Biotech Expo, which draws together high school students from throughout Washington state from biotechnology and molecular biology classes to present their science projects to the public.

Raising the value of science literacy in the community; attracting bright young minds into the field of science by helping educators to teach more effectively; and improving access to science resources for teachers, students and the community at large are the priorities of Amgen's science education partnerships. We achieve this by funding programs like the Student Biotech Expo, The Alliance for Education Amgen Science Coach, SBRI's BioQuest, The Amgen Bruce Wallace Laboratory Program and the Amgen Scholars.

Amgen Foundation is committed to providing hands-on experiences for students at all levels through programs like the



Photo courtesy Northwest Association for Biomedical Research

**Amgen research scientist, Jan Chalupny, mentored students at this year's Biotech Expo.**

Expo, while at the same time providing professional development for teachers at the K-12 levels. While our primary goal is to inspire and prepare the next generation of scientists, we also strive to instill a basic foundation of scientific knowledge in all students, believing it is essential to being an informed citizen. For other students, it is a journey from interest to passion. Or as another student put it, "The Biotech Expo provided me with a jumping off point in the world of science. I now have a better understanding of how wonderful it is, and now I can't wait to be a part of it."

*Carol Pawlak administers the Amgen Foundation in Washington which, in addition to science education, is also focused on improving the quality of care and access for patients, and creating sound communities. Amgen Foundation has been a member of Philanthropy Northwest since 1997.*

## STAFF CHANGES AT PHILANTHROPY NORTHWEST



It is with mixed emotions that we announce Vaughneta Barton's departure from Philanthropy Northwest to become program director for the Foundation for Early Learning. Over the last four and a half years, Vaughneta's professionalism, intelligence, grace and quirky sense of humor have infused every aspect of the work we do. She has provided a welcoming voice to new members, generously shared expertise

and advice with her colleagues, staffed the Alaska Funders Group, and much more. She will be dearly missed. However, as Vaughneta reminds us, she is not really going away. When she begins at Foundation for Early Learning, she becomes a new member of Philanthropy Northwest!

We welcomed two part-time staff members this summer: Dionna Anderson as administrative assistant and Christine Hill as online services coordinator. Janelle Zakrzewski, a recent graduate of Seattle Pacific University who has worked with us in various capacities over the last three years, has transitioned to the position of full-time executive assistant.