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I'm a graduate student studying Community Psychology at Portland State University, where I was lucky enough to meet Bill and Jeff and become involved with NW Noggin. I chose PSU in part because of the applied nature of the psychology program there. In applied psychology, of course, there are necessarily strong community partnerships, where students, researchers, and community members come together to advance our scientific knowledge, and to promote community well-being. That's what NW Noggin is all about: it's a mixture of psychology, art, and neuroscience applied to education and advocacy in innovative ways.

As has been mentioned, the people involved with NW Noggin come from so many backgrounds, and represent so many areas of interest. It has an incredibly interdisciplinary nature. Noggin presents an amazing opportunity for students with interests in the brain, but it's also so intriguing for students like myself with interests in community programming, or positive youth development, or those who want to teach or practice in many areas, especially art. At the same time that we are striving to have a positive impact on young people, and spark their interest in topics related to STEM and STEAM, our lives and educational experiences too have been so enriched in this process.

I have had the pleasure of working with so many passionate people that I've met through Noggin, and I'm honored to be up here today with several other talented students as representatives from Portland State University.