

Science needs investment. Engaging the public communicates discoveries and builds support for education and research. Integrating arts in STEM (STEAM) and community members from varied fields fosters interdisciplinary engagement, and draws in people not currently overrepresented in neuroscience.

Our volunteers left labs and lecture halls in spring 2023 to learn from bar pilots, cardiologists, graduate students, curious pre-K kids and 250 engaged 9th – 12th graders with inspiring, challenging questions from rural Oregon public schools.

We love to learn from people with knowledge and experience we do not have, and find where our research might apply. These efforts have deepened connections. Noggin has been invited to Oregon's North Coast every year since 2019, with meals and housing provided by local businesses and TRIO Clatsop.

Nonprofit NW Noggin (nwnoggin.org) organizes undergraduates and graduates to collaborate, build community networks and inspire people about neuroscience and art.

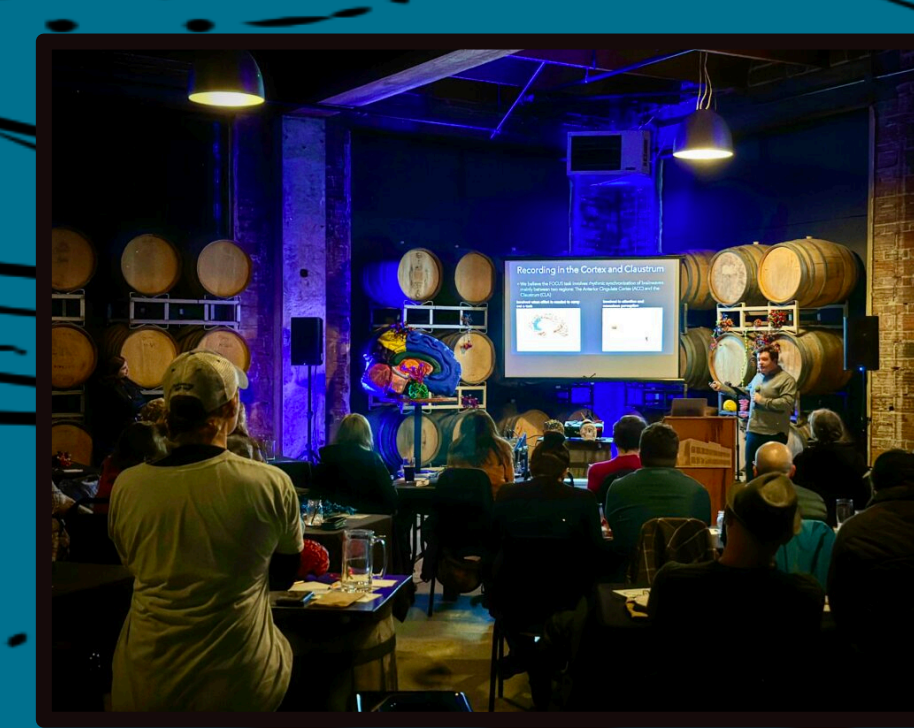
We bring diverse students excited by research and their own arts-integrated study of the brain and behavior into K-12 public schools, correctional facilities, Congress, houseless youth centers, coffee shops and pubs to hear what people already know and what they'd like to know, and to see where our stories and discoveries from labs and classrooms intersect. We've talked with over 65,000 people since 2012!

Eleven volunteers and 100+ people came to the Fort George Brewery in Astoria, Oregon for a free Noggin talk about energy in waves. We introduced three speakers, each skilled in extracting essential signals from noisy swells. Mark Hails, a Columbia River bar pilot, described wave signals permitting safe navigation around an infamous bar; Tom Hernandez, a PA cardiologist at Columbia Memorial Hospital, taught us to appreciate and measure a blood-borne wave relevant to health and disease; and Randall Olson, a graduate student in Behavioral/Systems Neuroscience at OHSU, explored brain waves contributing to conscious experience and perception.

A Columbia river bar pilot, a cardiology PA, and a neuroscientist walk into a bar...

This presentation began a week of visits to pre-K's and high schools in Knappa and Astoria. We made brain-related art, examined brain specimens, and discussed diverse topics of local interest, including sleep, psychedelics, fentanyl, elk behavior in response to different hunting techniques, ADHD, anxiety, depression, autism, alcohol, epigenetic impacts of multi-generational trauma, forest bathing, education and career pathways in neuroscience and the development of adolescent brains!

Interdisciplinary outreach informs community understanding, reaches more people, and builds support for investment in research and art.



For more information go to nwnoggin.org

