Welcome to the first issue of the Illinois PLTW Newsletter!

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We would love to feature your PLTW news in future issues so please share it with us!

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**Launch, the New Elementary Curriculum for Project Lead The Way is in Illinois!**

Registration for PLTW's new Elementary program – PLT WLaunch – has opened and several Illinois elementary schools have already registered. In fact, Illinois was one of the first states to have a school register for Launch!

The curriculum is designed to be flexible and offers four 10 hour modules per grade (K-5). Students decide as early as second and third grade whether they like, and think they are good at, math and science. So let's get your elementary students involved with STEM! Visit the PLT WLaunch [website](#) to learn more!

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**New Computer Science Course**

Schools are currently piloting the PLTW Computer Science and Software Engineering course which will be available as an elective course for Pathway to Engineering programs in 2014-2015. In coming years, PLTW will offer a four year Computer Science and Software pathway as well. More information will be sent via a separate email to PTE High School District Delegates.

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**Standards Alignment Tool**

The [PLTW Standards and Objectives Alignment Tool](#) provides the alignment of PTE/BMS courses and GTT
units to Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts and the Next Generation Science Standards.

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*Post-Secondary Recognition Opportunities*

Over 200 colleges and universities offer college credit, scholarships and other incentives to PLTW students. A list of these opportunities at midwestern post-secondary institutions can be found [here](#).

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*Important 2014 Illinois PLTW Dates*

**PLTW Teacher Roundtables** will be scheduled at more than eight sites around the state from 4 to 6pm on weekdays in *February and March*. Watch for email notifications over the next few weeks for dates and locations. We will also invite local non-PLTW administrators for PLTW information sessions to be held beforehand.

**New School Orientations for Administrators** will be held in Lisle on *March 6th* and Champaign on *March 17*.

**Summer Core Training** schedules are being finalized and will be available by early February. Registration will begin April 15th.

**Statewide Counselor and Administrator Conference and PLTW Teacher Conference Workshops** will be held on *December 2nd - 3rd* in Champaign.

Check the [Illinois PLTW website](#) for up-to-date information and registration for these events!

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**Illinois State Leadership Team**

The re-energized Illinois PLTW State Leadership Team, chaired by Marilyn Marshall, University of Illinois Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, met for the first time on October 29th, prior to the Illinois Statewide PLTW Counselor and Administrator Conference. The team's purpose is to serve in an advisory capacity to Illinois PLTW for the planning and maintenance of the Illinois PLTW mission. The team identified successes, opportunities, and challenges as they relate to PLTW growth in the state of Illinois and will meet again in late January at the ISBE offices in Springfield.

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**Illinois PLTW News**

The PLTW network is rapidly expanding in Illinois. Several recently published articles have shared details of new courses, schools and districts:

- [Indian Prairie Unit District 204](#) is expanding their GTT and PTE offerings.
- [Brookwood School District 167](#) is planning to implement PLTW in all four of their schools.
- [Glenbrook North HS](#) is adding PTE, after implementing PTE at Glenbrook South HS in 2013-14.

*We would love to feature your schools, events and students in future issues so please share your PLTW news with us!*
Illinois PLTW Team

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