Welcome to the January 2015 issue of the Illinois PLTW Newsletter!

Important 2015 Illinois PLTW Activities and Dates

PLTW Teacher Roundtables will be scheduled at more than eight sites around the state from 4 to 6pm on weekdays in March and April. Watch for email notifications over the next few weeks for dates and locations.

Orientations for Administrators at New Schools will be held in Lisle on March 5th, Chicago on March 6th, and Champaign on April 15. Watch for further details and online registration for these free events for administrators of schools planning to begin new PLTW program implementations in 2015-16.

2015 Core Training

The tentative Illinois Core Training schedule is listed below. Please note that teachers must complete Readiness Training before they can register for a Core Training session. Readiness Training will be available February 2nd; Core Training registration will open March 2nd. More information will be provided via PLTW Action Bulletins.

June 14 – 26 at UIUC
- Intro to Engineering Design (IED)
- Principles of Engineering (POE)
- Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA)

Week of July 6 – 11 at UIUC
- Energy and the Environment (EE)—3 days TBA
- Science of Technology (ST)—3 days TBA
- Magic of Electrons (ME)—3 days TBA
- Engineering Design and Development (EDD)
- Computer Science & Software Engineering (CSE)
- Gateway Design and Modeling (DM)
- Gateway Automation and Robotics (AR)
- Elementary LAUNCH Lead Teacher (ELE)
- Intro to Engineering Design (IED)
- Gateway Design and Modeling (DM)
- Medical Detectives (MD)
- Automation and Robotics (AR)
- Week of July 13, 20, or 27 (3 days TBA)
- Elementary LAUNCH Lead Teacher (ELE)
- Digital Electronics (DE)
- Principles of Engineering (POE)
- BioEngineering (BioE)
- Intro to Computer Science (ICS)

**Interested in learning more about PLTW programs?** Join us for one of these webinars, hosted by the Pathways Resource Center and presented by Sena Cooper.

**Tuesday February 10th at 9:30am** - High School Programs
[Register here.](http://us10.campaign-archive2.com/?u=b3267c77c35b5a4a2872dd31d&id=32c38d8a52&c=e=67bd650ee8)

**Tuesday February 24th at 9:30am** - Elementary and Middle School Programs
[Register here.](http://us10.campaign-archive2.com/?u=b3267c77c35b5a4a2872dd31d&id=32c38d8a52&c=e=67bd650ee8)

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**Illinois Engineering Design Competition**

We will be hosting a Statewide competition for students enrolled in PLTW's EDD course for the 2014–15 school year. The competition is designed to recognize and reward outstanding student projects and highlight the importance of engineering design and problem-solving in STEM education. Registration began Monday, November 3, 2014. Portfolios will be submitted via the Innovation Portal and will be reviewed by a jury of practicing professionals using the EDPPSR rubric. A PLTW Expo will be held in late May 2015 for final in-person judging. Competition details are available [here.](http://us10.campaign-archive2.com/?u=b3267c77c35b5a4a2872dd31d&id=32c38d8a52&c=e=67bd650ee8)

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**Tenth Annual Illinois Statewide Conference**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Teacher Workshops and State Conference on December 2nd and 3rd in Champaign. And a special thanks to our presenters! We were thrilled to have Corlis D. Murray, Senior Vice President, Quality Assurance, Regulatory and Engineering Services at Abbott Laboratories deliver an inspiring keynote address. Thank you to Brenda Pacey and the iHotel for hosting a wonderful event!
Look what is happening across the state at PLTW schools!

Students at Danville's Meade Park Elementary discover that math is "sweet"! Read about their PLTW Launch program [here](#).

Urbana High School IED students had fun designed cotton ball flinging machines! Read all about it [here](#).

Read all about the Oak Park Vex Robotics teams [here](#).

Underwater robotics!?!?! Read more about it [here](#).

Congratulations VEX Robotics teams!

Niles West won the Wildstang VEX Robotics Competition in December and Bartlett won first and second place at the Niles 219 Skywise VEX Robotics Competition in January. Teams from PLTW schools Niles West, Niles North, Niles West, Rolling Meadows, Bartlett and Nequa Valley High Schools qualified for the Illinois VEX Robotics State Championship on March 7th.
Congratulations to all VEX Robotics teams from PLTW schools that participated in local tournaments!

Read more about the Niles 219 Skyrise competition here. And the Wildstang competition here.

New National Institute for Digital Manufacturing

Last year, President Obama announced the creation of the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute (DMDII) with $70 million in funding from the Department of Defense. DMDII will have headquarters in Chicago, IL located on Goose Island with a grand opening expected in April or May. The institute is charged with catalyzing R & D projects and ensuring technology reaches the marketplace, along with coordinating workforce development and STEM education outreach efforts. Stay tuned to learn more about student and teacher opportunities at DMDII for the 2015–16 school year. Welcome to Illinois DMDII!

Wisconsin Visitation Opportunities

Wisconsin PLTW is hosting two exciting events for schools interested in learning more about PLTW. Please contact Patricia Diebert at deibertp@msoe.edu for additional information.

PLTW Biomedical Science Showcase at Wilmot Union HS on March 26th from 9am to noon. Register here.

PLTW K–12 Pathway Visitation Day at Elkhorn District on May 8th from 9am to 2pm. Register here.
Illinois PLTW Newsletter: January 2015

Illinois PLTW Team
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