Welcome to the March 2014 issue of the Illinois PLTW Newsletter!

Important 2014 Illinois PLTW Activities and Dates

Summer Core Training Registration is now open! U of Illinois core training sessions and information are available here. Core training for Biomedical Science and some specialty courses are out of state; these training options and information are available here. Launch core training sessions will be announced in April. Teachers register themselves for core training via the Extranet. Please contact Brenda Pacey with any core training questions.

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.

Grant Opportunities

America’s Farmers Grow Rural Education (Monsanto) - deadline April 6th.

Innovation Generation (STEM) Grants (Motorola) - deadline April 11th.

STEM Jobs® Magazine

Victory Media announces the launch of STEM Jobs® magazine, a national digital and print publication that encourages high school and college students, especially women and minorities, to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education and careers. STEM Jobs® fills the void between education and employment with a voice and a brand that makes those careers exciting and tangible for students. The premier issue highlights the science behind making our Olympic athletes more competitive at Sochi. Additional features include articles on teen cancer researcher Jack Andraka, careers at Google, ALCOA, Pfizer, Chevron, Fedex, education at California University of PA, Project Lead the Way and the U.S. Navy. Upcoming issues tie technical skills to great jobs at companies like ESPN, Cirque du Soleil and National Geographic. “By reflecting our tagline, Do What You Love, STEM Jobs® will make these fields ‘cool’ in the cafeteria.” said Daniel Nichols, STEM Jobs® president and former executive at the U.S. Department of Labor.

STEM Jobs® magazine is distributed digitally to over 600,000 students and 20,000 teachers in coordination
with a classroom publication reaching 15,000 schools in all 50 states across the US and has a print circulation of 200,000. Go to www.stemjobs.com to sign up for a free, digital subscription and for first notice of the extensive digital tools aimed at helping students explore STEM careers planned for release later this year.

=== Illinois Happenings ===

Administrators from more than 40 schools/districts attended our New School Orientations for Administrators earlier in March. Topics included national and state PLTW communication and program/membership requirement overview; technology and facilities planning; teacher summer core training institute registration and pre-planning; equipment, supplies, resource purchase; local school/community and regional cooperative support; ongoing program development; and more.

Many thanks to the PLTW teams from Huntley D158 and St. Charles D303 for sharing their PLTW experiences at the Connections Conference. Melissa Byrne, Mike DeWees, Marsha Brown, Ed Coyle and Rob Harmon from St. Charles D303 talked about the Gateway and Engineering programs at our Pre-Engineering STEM Opportunities session; Mike Wheatley, Mike Moan and Jeff Robinson from Huntley D158 talked about BMS at our PLTW Biomedical Sciences session. Thanks to all of you for bringing your PLTW classrooms to life at the conference!

New Trier HS Introduction to Engineering Design students are redesigning crutches! Read the article and watch two students explain their experiences here!

First grade Launch students at Next Generation School in Champaign participated in the whole-school Science and Engineering Fair by designing communication devices as part of their Project Lead the Way Launch Pilot module. The students were introduced to the problem with a story about three friends who have an adventure and get lost in the woods. To solve the problem of being lost, the three friends decide to design something to get the attention of the rest of the group. The design focused on using light and sound. As part of the exploring step of the design process, the students investigated light and sound waves, including vibration from sound waves and the effect of different materials on the path of a beam of light. The students then continued with the design process to sketch, build, test, and reflect on a device that uses light and sound to communicate over a distance. The purpose of this device was to help the three friends communicate their location to others in their group. The constraints were that the students could only use materials that were found in the friends’ backpacks. At the end of the project, the class evaluated their devices and determined changes that could be made in the future. It was a fun project and a great addition to the Next Generation Science and Engineering Fair!

Lumity STEM Collaboration features Lady Engineers at Chicago Math and Science Academy. In honor of National Engineers week (February 18-22), and Girl Day in particular (February 20th), two junior students from CMSA collaborated on a video celebrating women in engineering. Lumity Presents: Women in Engineering, featured Chief Estimator Erin Walsh discussing the changing roles of women in the engineering field. CMSA students Jennifer Jasso and Sana Slote partnered in a lively discussion which included two students from Amundsen High School.

What great PLTW things are happening in your school? We would love to feature your PLTW news, events or information in future issues so please share them with us!
Are you hosting special events? What did you do to celebrate Pi Day? Do you have a unique (e.g., all girls?) PLTW class or implementation model that others can learn from?

Please submit to Sena Cooper at scooper@pltw.org.

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**Marketing Materials**

PLTW bi-fold brochures are great for open houses or spring visits with incoming students – or parents who want to know more about PLTW programs. You can view them under Related Links on the bottom right of this page. Please contact Sena Cooper if you would like to order any brochures.

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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 virtually on January 31st. The team identified successes, opportunities, and challenges as they relate to PLTW growth in the state of Illinois and will meet again in April.

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**Illinois PLTW Team**

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<th>Illinois PLTW Website</th>
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