Welcome to the May/June 2014 issue of the Illinois PLTW Newsletter! Our newsletters are now published on the Illinois PLTW website.

**Important 2014 Illinois PLTW Activities and Dates**

**Summer Core Training is almost underway!** U of Illinois core training sessions and information are available [here](#). The first core training courses begin June 15th at UIUC. All participants should have received detailed preparation instructions and are required to completed Readiness Training prior to attending training. Please contact Brenda Pacey with any core training related questions.

**Join us at the PLTW Student Project Showcase at the IMTS Smartforce Student Summit, Sept. 8-13 in Chicago**

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is inviting Illinois, Wisconsin and northern Indiana area PLTW Engineering schools to apply to represent PLTW at the Smartforce Student Summit during the International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS) at Chicago’s McCormick Place on Sept. 8 – 13. IMTS is the nation’s largest celebration of manufacturing technology and draws more than 1,900 exhibitors and 100,000 attendees. PLTW’s exhibit at the Smartforce Student Summit at IMTS aims to demonstrate to the more than 9,000 students and educators in attendance the amazing things PLTW students are doing in the classroom.

Note that registration for students and educators to attend the Smartforce Student Summit is free and includes access to IMTS at no charge, using the “Educators and Chaperones’” link on the main Student Summit landing page. School teams are responsible for transportation to and from McCormick Place. Meals and snacks during the day will be provided.

Additional information has been emailed to all Illinois PLTW Engineering school administrators and teachers. The application is available [here](#). Completed proposals must be submitted no later than Monday, August 25th. Please contact Sena Cooper with any questions.

**Digital Electronics (DE) Hardware Platform Update.** As announced in the February Action Bulletin, there will be a new hardware platform and revised curriculum for the 2014-15 school year release of Digital Electronics. See the [DE Course Revision FAQ guide](#) for more information. U of Illinois PLTW will sponsor four hour DE Curriculum Update Workshops led by Master Teachers Gary Cotie and Michael Karasch on Monday August 4th at UIC, Saturday September 6th at Bartlett HS, Friday October 31st or Saturday November 1st in Bloomington-Normal and Tuesday December 2nd in Champaign. Additional information and registration is available [here](#). For further information, please contact Brenda Pacey.
Statewide Counselor and Administrator Conference and PLTW Teacher Conference Workshops will be held on December 2nd - 3rd in Champaign. More details, including an opportunity to be part of the planning committee and how to submit presentation proposals, will be forthcoming as it becomes available in the coming weeks.

Check the Illinois PLTW website for up-to-date information.

Illinois PLTW Happenings

Chicago Public Schools hosted a CPS CTE Pre-Engineering Junior/Senior Capstone Event on May 16th at UIC. This event showcased the engineering projects of CPS PLTW students. Congratulations to all who participated and those who received awards for the best projects! Many thanks to our engineering judges.

PLTW Gateway students from Jefferson Middle School (Springfield) and Waterloo Junior High School participated in TECH 2014 technology demonstrations at the Illinois State Capitol on May 8th. TECH 2014 is a not-for-profit organization presented by the Illinois Computing Educators (I.C.E.) to raise awareness of the importance of technology in the classroom. Students demonstrated how the use of technology in the classroom is connected to student achievement. Read more about Jefferson students here and take a look at their photos here.

PLTW students at Quest Charter Academy in Peoria were involved with the Central Illinois Society of Women Engineers (SWE)’s PLTW Outreach program. Caterpillar Inc. engineers spoke to the students each month about their experiences in engineering. The students heard different perspectives and challenges from this diverse and engaging group of engineers. The partnership culminated in a tour of Caterpillar’s Track Type Tractor plant for these 35 students. Thank you to SWE and Caterpillar!

Thank you to the Barrington 220 Education Foundation! Barrington’s Station and Prairie Middle Schools will receive funding from the Barrington 220 Education Foundation to implement PLTW Gateway in the fall. Read more about it here.

Olivia Armstrong, a New Trier HS graduate, was featured in the Alumni Spotlight section of the Summer 2014 PLTW Alumni Association newsletter. You can read more about Olivia's work as a STEM Education Advocate here.

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? 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

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.
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, is continuing to focus on opportunities and challenges as they relate to PLTW growth in the state of Illinois and will meet again in August.

Illinois PLTW Team

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