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

We would like to welcome our 81 new programs, 73 new schools, 26 new districts for the 2014-15 school year!

Important 2014 Illinois PLTW Activities and Dates

SAVE THE DATE: Tenth Annual Illinois Statewide Counselor and Administrator Conference and PLTW Teacher Conference Workshops will be held on December 2nd and 3rd in Champaign. “Celebrating a Decade of Project Lead The Way in Illinois--PLTW STEM Success Stories” will be the theme.

The PLTW Teacher workshops on Tuesday, December 2nd (11 am-5 pm) will focus on:

- Program and course-specific curriculum updates and roundtables
- Learning Management System (LMS), electronic portfolios, VEX, RobotC and Inventor workshops
- Best practice and action research sharing sessions

The Conference on Wednesday, December 3rd (9 am-3 pm) will feature keynote and concurrent session speakers and include:

- “Best practice panels” on classroom action research and successful community partnerships
- Counseling and career planning/workforce development
- Student recruitment and retention
- NGSS, PARCC, standards, assessment trends
- K-12 STEM resources
- K-12 and college students presentations and exhibits
- Higher education and workforce opportunities
- Illinois PLTW 10th anniversary recognitions—looking back and reaching forward for Project Lead The Way efforts statewide.

Watch for online registration, session proposal submission forms, and more details to be posted on the www.pltw.uiillinois.edu website in the next few weeks. (Teachers Workshop day registration $150.00; Counselor/Administrator Conference day registration $110.00; special two-day participation registration for teachers $200.00.)
**Join us at the PLTW Student Project Showcase at the IMTS Smartforce Student Summit, Sept. 8-13 in Chicago**

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) will be exhibiting 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.

Teachers and students from Chicago Math & Science Academy, Julian MS (Oak Park) and Saint Charles East and North High Schools will be representing PLTW during the show. Students and educators from any school can attend the Smartforce Student Summit for free and includes access to IMTS at no charge using this [link](#).

**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 [Curriculum Update Workshops](#) led by Master Teachers Gary Cotie and Michael Karasch on Saturday September 6th at Bartlett HS, Friday October 31st or Saturday November 1st in Bloomington-Normal during the statewide ITEC Cofnerence and Tuesday December 2nd in Champaign. Additional information and registration is available [here](#). For further information, please contact Brenda Pacey.

Check the [Illinois PLTW website](#) for up-to-date information.

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**Welcome Back to School!**

**As you start this year, please remember the following:**

**Rostering:** All PLTW Launch, PLTW Gateway, PLTW Engineering, PLTW Computer Science, and PLTW Biomedical Science students must be rostered by the PLTW District Delegate/Administrator, Principal, or Principal appointed-School Administrator. Rostering instructions can be found [here](#) on my.pltw.org.

**Enrolling:** All PLTW Launch, PLTW Gateway, PLTW Engineering, PLTW Computer Science, and PLTW Biomedical Science students can be enrolled by the teacher to provide access to the PLTW curriculum in the LMS. Enrolling instructions can be found [here](#) on my.pltw.org.

**Software Information:** Access to all software licenses is available [here](#). Please remember that all software (except for Autodesk) must be requested via [this form](#). Autodesk license and download information is available via the [Autodesk Portal](#).

If you need help with any of these items, please contact Sena, Brenda or PLTW School Support.

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**2015-16 PLTW Grant Opportunities**

We are excited to announce several grant competitions available for new implementations in Illinois for the 2015-16 school year. Sena is in the process of contacting eligible schools.
**Illinois Engineering Design Competition**

We are pleased to announce a Statewide competition for students enrolled in PLTWF'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 will begin 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. More information will be shared with Illinois EDD teachers over the next few months, including at an informational session at the state conference in December.

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**Illinois PLTW Happenings**

Glenbrook South HS has debuted new collaborative workspaces for their PLTW students while Barrington has similar plans for their two middle schools. Read more about them [here](#) and [here](#).

New Trier HS hosted a STEM camp for middle schools students over the summer. Read more about it [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.

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**Illinois State Leadership Team**

The 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 met again in August.

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**Illinois PLTW Team**

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<tr>
<th>Illinois PLTW Website</th>
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<th>PLTW School Support: 1-877-335-7589 (M-F 6am - 10pm CST)</th>
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Sena Cooper, Director of School Engagement, PLTW

scooper@pltw.org 217-714-9234 [Follow @PLTWMidwest on Twitter](#)

Brenda Pacey, Illinois PLTW Affiliate Director, University of Illinois Academic Programs and Services

bpacey@uillinois.edu 217-244-5217
Steve Parrott, Illinois State Leader (Engineering), ISBE - Principal Consultant, Technology and Engineering
sparrott@isbe.net  217-524-4832

Annie Brooks, Illinois State Leader (Biomedical Sciences), ISBE - Principal Consultant, Health Science Technology
abrooks@isbe.net  217-782-4620