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

**Important 2014 Illinois PLTW Activities and Dates**

**REGISTER NOW:** Tenth Annual Illinois Statewide Counselor and Administrator Conference and PLTW Teacher Conference Workshops will be held on December 2nd - 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** (11am - 5pm) will focus on:

- Program and course-specific curriculum updates and roundtables (Launch, Gateway, Engineering, Biomed, Computer Science)
- Digital Electronics (DE) Curriculum Update Workshop (see below for more information)
- Engineering Design and Development (EDD) teacher workshop and Illinois Engineering Design Competition information session
- Learning Management System (LMS), electronic portfolios, VEX, RobotC and Inventor workshops
- Best practice and action research sharing sessions

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

- PLTW Launch, Gateway, Engineering, Biomed and Computer Science curriculum overviews
- PLTW New Curriculum Pilot reviews - BioEngineering and Computer Science and Software Engineering
- Getting Started planning sessions for potential new schools
- "Next steps" planning sessions for first and second-year PLTW schools
- "My PLTW" and Learning Management System (LMS) online program resources for PLTW District Administrators and teachers
- “Best practice panels” on classroom action research and successful community partnerships
- Counseling and career planning/workforce development
- Student recruitment and retention
- Under-represented and non-traditional student involvement
- NGSS, PARCC, standards, assessment trends
- K-12 STEM resources
• Math in Action in the PLTW classroom
• K-12 and college students presentations and exhibits
• Higher education and workforce opportunities
• University of Illinois and other Illinois higher education Engineering and Technology program updates
• High school PLTW certification
• Illinois PLTW 10th anniversary recognitions—looking back and reaching forward for Project Lead The Way efforts statewide
• And more!

Watch for detailed agenda postings later in October. Teachers Workshop day registration $150.00; Counselor/Administrator Conference day registration $110.00; special two-day participation registration for teachers $200.00. More information is available here.

**PLTW Student Project Showcase at the IMTS Smartforce Student Summit, Sept. 8-13 in Chicago**
Project Lead The Way (PLTW) exhibited 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 aimed to demonstrate to the more than 9,000 students and educators in attendance the amazing things PLTW students are doing in the classroom.

A huge thank you to the teachers and students from Chicago Math & Science Academy, Julian MS (Oak Park) and Saint Charles East and North High Schools who represented PLTW during the show!

**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 Friday October 31st from 3 - 7pm in Bloomington-Normal during the statewide ITEC Conference 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.

**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.
Illinois Engineering Design Competition

We are pleased to announce 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 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.

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 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 just before the state conference.

Illinois PLTW Team

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illinois PLTW Website</th>
<th>PLTW Website</th>
<th>PLTW School Support: 1-877-335-7589 (M-F 6am - 10pm CST)</th>
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