Welcome to the November 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 and 3rd in Champaign. The theme is “Celebrating a Decade of Project Lead The Way in Illinois--PLTW STEM Success Stories”. We are excited to announce the keynote address will be “Inspire to Aspire” by Corlis D. Murray, Senior Vice President, Quality Assurance, Regulatory and Engineering Services, Abbott Laboratories.

Teachers Workshop day registration $150.00; Counselor/Administrator Conference day registration $110.00; special two-day participation registration for teachers $200.00. We hope to see you there!

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 the final four hour [Curriculum Update Workshop](#) led by Master Teachers Gary Cotie and Michael Karasch 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.

**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 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. 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. Competition details are available [here](#).
Illinois PLTW Happenings

Holmes JHS alumni and peers spearhead the First Annual Rolling Meadows HS Miss Maker Fair.

In an attempt to address a lack of girls on the team and in the engineering field in general, a few high school students on the district 214 FIRST robotics team, known as WildStang, decided to organize an event aiming to get young girls excited about STEM. And so, Miss Maker Fair was born. After months of planning, they held the event at one of their team’s high schools, drawing over thirty girls ages 9-13 from several local elementary and middle schools.

The event lasted four hours as participants rotated through three differently themed activities - mechanical, software, and electrical - all designed and run by WildStang students. Activities included building mouse trap cars, catapults, simple breadboard circuits, learning how to solder, and simple Scratch activities. These activities were hands-on and guided to ensure that all the participants had a positive first experience with the STEM field. To go along with the guided activities, participants were given instructions and kits to take home, encouraging them to continue learning and exploring even after the event had ended.

Wheeling High School’s PLTW Engineering program was featured in a USA Today article about manufacturing. Read the article here.

Elk Grove High School in D214 offers a girls-only section of Introduction to Engineering Design. Learn more about it here and here.

New Berlin School District recognized by the National Association for Career and Technical Education. 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 PLTW class or implementation model that others can learn from? Please submit to Sena Cooper at scooper@pltw.org

Other STEM Activities

Grants Available for NEW Vex Robotics Teams: The Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (REC) has announced the availability of Team Grants to assist NEW Vex Robotics elementary, middle or high school teams as they get started. Online application can be found here for the 2014-15 year, or contact VEX U Midwest Regional Manager Marc Couture at marc_couture@roboticseducation.org.

77th Annual International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) Conference in Milwaukee - March 26-28, 2015

Preregistration for ITEEA’s 2015 Milwaukee Conference is now open! Some highlights include: Something’s Brewing in Wisconsin! Complimentary Registration for Administrators; STEM Showcase and Much More! Over 100 learning sessions, preconference workshops, tours, the latest products and services and student competitions, the 2015 ITEEA conference offers an unparalleled integrative STEM professional development opportunity.

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 in early December.

Illinois PLTW Team
Illinois PLTW Website          PLTW Website
PLTW School Support: 1-877-335-7589 (M-F 6am - 10pm CST)

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