PLTW STEM Implementation Fund (PSIF)

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) administers a special PLTW STEM Implementation Fund (PSIF). PLTW is building partnerships with companies, foundations, and philanthropic organizations seeking to impact STEM education across the country. While funds may not be available at this time for Illinois schools, the PSIF is designed to help start up or expand PLTW STEM programs—Gateway to Technology (GTT), Pathway to Engineering (PTE), and Biomedical Sciences (BMS)—in public, private and charter schools. The application process is currently open on a rolling basis for schools launching or expanding their PTLW program(s) during the 2012-13 school year. When funding becomes available for various states/programs, applications on file will be reviewed. (Note: some forms on the PSIF website below refer to past dates; adjust accordingly for 2012-13 implementation planning.)

The PSIF involves a competitive grant process. Requirements include successful applicants having visited at least one other PLTW school, having prepared a PLTW program budget, having lined up potential community partners, and having or developing a computer lab that meets PLTW requirements. To access the online application, visit http://grants.pltw.org/. (Note: please make a user name login with no spaces between letters or symbols, and a password for each school building for which a grant application will be submitted; after you log in there are links to helpful information and application forms.)

Grant Awards
- School districts interested in starting a high school PTE or BMS program are eligible for start up funds of up to $35,000 paid out over three years. High schools must commit to implementing a minimum of three courses, a minimum of one each year, to be eligible for this funding.
- School districts interested in starting a PLTW middle school GTT program are eligible for start up funds of up to $20,000, paid out over two years for implementing two modules which involve at least 30% of the school’s student population.

Use of Funds
Grant funds are restricted to being used for training costs for teachers (no stipends) for no more than one year, software license for one year only, for purchase of teacher laptop, course equipment and supplies, lab printer, and digital projector and screen. Grant funds are not be used for renovations, lab/student computers, network infrastructure, or items listed in the PTLW purchasing manuals as “Optional.” (See Blank PLTW Budget sheet link at PSIF website for detailed list of eligible funding categories.)

For more Information
- For more information regarding PLTW STEM Implementation Fund, please visit http://grants.pltw.org/
- For information regarding PLTW programs, please visit www.pltw.org
- Please send all application questions to Krista Poch at kpoch@pltw.org
- For general Illinois PLTW program implementation planning and support, contact Brenda Pacey at bpacey@uillinois.edu or www.pltw.uillinois.edu