



For Immediate Release
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Pleasanton Unified School District Expands Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education through Project Lead The Way

Pleasanton, CA - Pleasanton Unified School District, in coordination with Project Lead The Way (PLTW), will begin offering PLTW's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses starting in the Fall of 2012, giving students access to skills and knowledge that will be crucial for them to excel in the future. PUSD is able to offer these programs through Career Technical Education grant funds. PLTW's Gateway to Engineering curriculum will be integrated into existing offerings at Pleasanton and Harvest Park Middle Schools and the Pathways to Engineering curriculum will be offered at Amador Valley High School.

PLTW is a not-for-profit organization and the nation's leading provider of middle and high school STEM education programs in everything from Energy and the Environment to Biotechnology, Engineering Design and Development, Biomedical Innovation and more. Courses offered through the program can be used as electives and allow students the opportunity to apply what they are learning in traditional math and science classes to authentic engineering, technology and biomedical sciences-related projects.

"PLTW has a long history of successfully engaging students in STEM subjects," said Julie Duncan. "This will give students a huge advantage over their peers when it comes to college and career readiness and increase the pool of highly-skilled workers for local industry."

PLTW provides training for middle and high school teachers so they can effectively implement – and teach – the engaging hands-on, project-based curriculum. PLTW cultivates relationships with universities to provide students opportunities for college credit, scholarships and admissions preferences. School-based PLTW Partnership Teams complement the curriculum by recruiting local business and industry professionals to serve as mentors and share their real-world experiences with students.

Bureau of Labor Statistics projections show that 16 of the 20 fastest-growing occupations, from biomedical engineers to data communications analysts, will require a background in STEM.

"In today's global economy, Americans are competing not just against each other but against their peers in countries like China and India," said Vince Bertram, CEO of PLTW. "It is more critical now than ever for our education system to help students develop the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills they'll need so that the U.S. remains economically competitive."

PLTW partners with 4,200 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, including 284 middle and high schools in California offering the biomedical and/or engineering programs. Locally, Safeway, Lawrence Livermore Lab, and Chevron have provided funds and support for these programs.

Those interested in serving on the PLTW advisory board, connecting as an industry partner, or receiving more information about the program are encouraged to attend an informational meeting to be held in the

Q Building at Amador Valley High School on Wednesday, February 1st at 6:30 PM or email your request to pltw@pleasantonusd.net.

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About PLTW

Project Lead The Way, Inc., is nonprofit organization with 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt status that is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative STEM education curricular programs used in schools. PLTW's comprehensive curriculum has been collaboratively designed by PLTW teachers, university educators, engineering and biomedical professionals, and school administrators to promote critical thinking, creativity, innovation and real-world problem solving skills in students. The hands-on, project-based program engages students on multiple levels, exposes them to areas of study that they typically do not pursue, and provides them with a foundation and proven path to college and career success. More than 400,000 students at 4,200 schools in 50 states plus Washington, D.C., are currently taking PLTW courses. For more information, visit www.pltw.org.