

Fact Sheet

About Project Lead The Way	Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the nation’s leading provider of STEM programs. PLTW’s world-class, activity-, project-, and problem-based curriculum and high-quality teacher professional development model, combined with an engaged network of educators and corporate partners, help students develop the skills needed to succeed in our global economy.
Key Organizational Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLTW is the largest nonprofit provider of STEM education programs, delivering nearly 6,000 PLTW programs to more than 5,000 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and D.C. • PLTW schools can be found in rural, urban, and suburban districts; across all income levels; as well as public, private, and charter schools. • PLTW experienced record program growth from the 2012-13 school year to the 2013-14 school year (~24%).
Primary PLTW Focus Areas	<p>World-class curriculum: PLTW’s world-class curriculum helps more students develop the skills needed to succeed in our global economy. PLTW curriculum aligns with Common Core State Standards for Math and English Language Arts, Next Generation Science Standards, and other national and state standards. PLTW programs are flexible so that districts may comply with their state’s Department of Education standards or school-level scheduling needs.</p> <p>High-quality professional development: One of the most unique aspects of PLTW programs is the engaging, rigorous professional development. We focus on preparing teachers with the professional skills necessary to get students engaged in learning the STEM disciplines and focused on seeking solutions.</p> <p>Engaged network: Solving America’s workforce skills gap crisis will take commitment from the public and private sectors. PLTW is creating outstanding partnerships with leading corporations, philanthropic organizations, and educational institutions.</p>
PLTW Curricular Programs	<p>PLTW’s rigorous and relevant curriculum leverages an innovative, activity-, project-, and problem-based approach, allowing students to apply what they know, identify problems, find unique solutions, and lead their own learning. PLTW’s five programs include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PLTW Launch: Studies show that students decide as early as elementary school whether they like, and think they are good at, math and science. PLTW Launch is designed to capture students’ interest in math and science and spark a lifelong passion. 2. PLTW Gateway: Through topics like robotics, flight and space, and DNA and crime scene analysis, students will find their natural curiosity and imagination engaged in creative problem solving. 3. PLTW Engineering: Students engage in open-ended problem solving, learn and apply the engineering design process, and use the same industry-leading technology and software as the world’s top companies – all while studying topics such as aerodynamics and astronautics, biological engineering and sustainability, and digital electronics and circuit design. 4. PLTW Biomedical Science: The program is a rigorous and relevant four-course sequence that allows students to play the roles of biomedical professionals as they investigate and study the concepts of human medicine, physiology, genetics, microbiology, and public health. 5. PLTW Computer Science: To prepare more students for great career opportunities requiring computational thinking, PLTW is launching a four-year Computer Science program designed to build student interest and engagement in computer science. Schools can offer the full program or incorporate the initial Computer Science and Software Engineering course as the third course in the PLTW Engineering program.
PLTW Results	<p>Numerous reports have highlighted PLTW’s success in engaging the hearts and minds of students through STEM education. Evidence of PLTW’s success to date includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLTW contributes to a strong, positive impact on mathematics and science achievement and offers a pathway to prepare and motivate students to enter careers in science and engineering. (Tai, 2012) • 70% of high school seniors who are taking PLTW courses intend to study engineering, technology, computer science, or another applied science. (True Outcomes Analysis of End-of-Course Evaluations for PLTW, 2009) • Over 93% of PLTW students intend to pursue at least a two-year or four-year degree after high school. (True Outcomes Analysis of End-of-Course Evaluations for PLTW, 2009)

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<p>Leadership</p> <p>Vince Bertram, President and CEO</p>	<p>Vince Bertram joined PLTW as President and CEO in 2011. Under his leadership, PLTW has experienced record program growth, trained more than 10,000 teachers, and grown the support of partners and sponsors. PLTW has been named to the Social Impact Exchange’s S&I 100 list of the top performing nonprofit organizations and was recently recognized by Change the Equation as one of only four high-quality nonprofit programs that can be taken to national scale.</p> <p>Among numerous national presentations and appearances, Vince has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives; presented at the U.S. News STEM Solutions National Conference; and was featured in a special segment on Fox News’ “Beyond the Dream”. Prior to joining PLTW, Vince was a teacher, principal, and most recently, superintendent of Indiana’s third-largest urban school district.</p>
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