

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Fact Sheet

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-

There is a disparaging lack of diversity among women and minority students in STEM-focused studies and careers. Women constitute 48 percent of the U.S. workforce but hold just 24 percent of the U.S. jobs in STEM. Only 1 in 10 STEM professionals is a minority woman. PLTW's programs aim to engage all students - as early as kindergarten - in STEM subjects and introduce them to the wide range of opportunities and careers in these fields.

PLTW by the Numbers

More than 8,000 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs.

More than 1 million students are enrolled in PLTW programs.

In 2015, PLTW trained more than 10,000 teachers, and has trained more than 29,000 teachers since 1997.

PLTW has alliances with approximately 60 post-secondary and research institutions, and nearly 100 leading corporations and philanthropic organizations including Chevron, Lockheed Martin, the Kern Family Foundation, Autodesk, and Verizon.

For more information on Project Lead The Way, visit pltw.org.

Results

PLTW inspires and empowers students to develop the problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, collaboration, and communication skills needed to thrive in an evolving world.

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 (*An Examination of Research Literature on PLTW*, Dr. Robert Tai, University of Virginia, 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).

Many post-secondary institutions across the country actively recruit PLTW students and provide recognition opportunities like preferred admission, scholarships, and course credit. Several prestigious engineering universities report high and increasing levels of PLTW student enrollment.

- o 60% of the 2013 incoming freshman class at the University of South Carolina College of Engineering and Computing took PLTW in high school.
- o PLTW alumni account for over 45% of the students who were admitted in 2013 to the University of Minnesota's College of Engineering.
- o 38% of the Milwaukee School of Engineering's 2013 freshman class previously took PLTW courses.

Researchers at the Center for Urban and Multicultural Education at the Indiana University School of Education at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis analyzed data for more than 56,000 Indiana high school graduates. Major findings:

- o High school graduates who participated in PLTW were 12% more likely to enroll in a post-secondary institution than those who did not.

A Texas State University researcher collected and analyzed six years of longitudinally-linked student data to compare thousands of PLTW students to their non-PLTW peers. The data show:

- o PLTW enrollment in Texas has increased by more than 400% over the last five years - Hispanics by over 500%; females by nearly 600%; and low-income students by 650%.
- o PLTW students are more prepared for and attended Texas higher education institutions at a higher rate.
- o PLTW students scored higher on the state's mathematics assessment.

Source: PLTW Students More Prepared for Higher Education, Dr. James Van Overschelde, Texas State University Spring 2013 American Journal of Engineering Education.