

Plaza Donuts Recognizes TCTC For Achieving National Certification
with
Project Lead The Way



As supporters from business and academia looked on, Dr. Karen Johnson; Director, Jason Rupe and Terri Fleming; Project Lead the Way Instructors, and Maria Len; Guidance Counselor from The Trumbull Career and Technical Center recently accepted a plaque proclaiming national certification from Project Lead the Way (PLTW). The students in the program were equally excited because they were the recipients of pastry provided by Plaza Donuts.

The Trumbull Career and Technical Center was one of two Career and Technical Center's in the state of Ohio to receive this recognition. In an effort to help schools increase the number and quality of engineering science students graduating from colleges and universities in the United States PLTW offers high school students a rigorous, hands-

on, project-based pre-engineering program of study. To achieve national certification, a PLTW school must adhere to strict requirements, including—among other things—teaching the PLTW curriculum, administering the exams provided, working with local business and industry, offering students a way to take all of the basic courses offered and providing them a clear pathway into post-secondary education.

Since their school has achieved certified status, Trumbull Career and Technical Center pre-engineering students may now take their high school credit earned in Project Lead the Way and receive credit at several national PLTW affiliate colleges and universities such as Purdue, Penn State, and Rochester Institute of Technology. In addition, several Ohio colleges and universities have already worked out or are currently working out details that will allow pre-engineering students to enter a large number of Ohio colleges with college credit, depending on the program and the requirements of the specific college. Students in the biomedical science track will also soon have the same opportunity.

PLTW Executive Council member Dave Dickinson, professor of Welding Engineering at The Ohio State University, is quite impressed with the PLTW pre-engineering program and with the caliber of students in PLTW classes across the state. “These ninth and tenth graders are every bit as mature and bright as most of the college freshmen I see,” said Dickinson. “I’d be happy to see any or all of them come to OSU.”

Another Executive Council member, Dave Powell, Director of Plant Engineering and Environmental Performance at American Electric Power, stresses the importance of the PLTW students’ contribution to Ohio’s future. “This country will have over a million

jobs in engineering opening up in the next few years as people retire,” he said. “We need new engineers.”

The PLTW program, aimed at increasing the numbers of high school students interested in pursuing engineering or biomedical careers in college, has been adopted by 202 high schools, career centers, and middle schools all over the state, with more signing on every day

Kathy Sommers of the Ohio Department of Education, Project Lead the Way’s state leader for Ohio, sees the program as the best answer to Ohio’s workforce and employment issues. “With 100% of the baby boomer population due to retire over the next ten to fifteen years, we are going to need all the engineers and trained biomedical people we can get,” Sommers said. “Project Lead the Way can help to fill that gap--we see almost unlimited potential for growth in our state.”

