

TO: Editor
Local Paper

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RE: Press Release (Immediate)

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North Penn High School Recognized by Project Lead The Way for Its Quality Pre-Engineering Program

Representatives from Project Lead The Way [PLTW] and Penn State University have recognized the North Penn High School Engineering Academy as an exemplary pre-engineering program that has met and exceeded the quality standards established by its national partnership of schools, universities and colleges, business and industry during a certification visit on Thursday, March 17, 2005. The High School Certification program recognizes schools which have successfully implemented the PLTW curriculum and provides an opportunity for students to receive college credit.

The certification process included a self-assessment of the PLTW program and a one-day site visit by Mr. Robert Dorn of PLTW, Eileen Rinaudo and Terry Speicher, both of Penn State University. The Site Visit Committee met with teachers, administrators, counselors, students, and community members to assess the Engineering Academy and to review the student course portfolios.

Robert Dorn, PLTW Regional Director, stated that North Penn has demonstrated its commitment to the quality standards of the PLTW program by having the teachers of their engineering academy trained during the summer at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York and by teaching the PLTW courses utilizing the latest computer software. Mr. Dorn also recognized the district's commitment to the guidance counselor ongoing training during the school year stating that, "A crucial element to the success of the program is regularly updating the teachers' skills and promoting counselor awareness of the latest PLTW initiatives for students."

Mr. Dorn stated that "the district [now] provides an invaluable opportunity to its students through the certification process. Students may now apply for transcribed college credit or other forms of recognition at a variety of national affiliate colleges and universities, if they demonstrate exemplary work in their pre-engineering courses and pass the appropriate PLTW End-of-Course examination."

Funded by Charitable Venture Foundation, Project Lead The Way, a not-for-profit organization, is a national program which is offered in over 44 states and over 1000 schools from New York to California and Michigan to Florida. It was begun to address the national shortage of engineers and engineering technologists. For further information, please visit the North Penn Engineering Academy website at www.engineering.nptechd.org or the Project Lead The Way website at www.pltw.org.