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Neuqua Valley High School Receives National Recognition for Commitment to Empowering Students

Named a distinguished school for STEM and career learning program

Naperville, IL – Neuqua Valley High School announced today that it has been recognized for the second year in a row as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Engineering. It is one of just 64 high schools across the U.S., and one of 8 in the state of Illinois to receive this honor. [PLTW](#) is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in schools across the U.S.

Neuqua Valley Technology & Engineering Education Department Chair, Lisa Traut, is proud of her teachers and school for achieving this recognition. “Since we launched the PLTW program in the fall of 2011, we have worked hard to build a program our students and community can be proud of. Receiving this honor for the 2nd year in a row confirms that we have teachers who are committed to doing what it takes to put students first, to provide them with real-world experiences, and to help them be successful.”

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, Neuqua Valley had to meet the following criteria during the 2017-18 school year:

- Offer at least three PLTW courses; **(Neuqua Valley offers 5 courses)**
- Have 25 percent of students or more participate in PLTW courses, or of those who participated in PLTW, at least 33 percent took two or more PLTW courses during their high school tenure; **(44.6% of our students took 2 or more PLTW courses)**
- Have 70 percent of students or more earn a Proficient or higher on PLTW End-of-Course Assessments, or 10 percent of students earn the [AP + PLTW Student Achievement](#). **(87.54% of our students earned a Proficient or higher on the PLTW EOC Assessments)**

Through PLTW programs, students develop STEM knowledge as well as in-demand, transportable skills that they will use both in school and for the rest of their lives, on any career path they take. PLTW Engineering™ empowers high school students to step into the role of an engineer and adopt a problem-solving mindset. Students engage in collaborative, real-life

Empowering students to thrive in an evolving world.



activities like working with a client to design a home, programming electronic devices or robotic arms, and exploring algae as a biofuel source.

“It is a great honor to recognize Neuqua Valley High School for their commitment to students,” said Vince Bertram, President and CEO of PLTW. “They are a model for what school should look like, and they should be very proud of ensuring students have the knowledge and skills to be career ready and successful on any career path they choose.” Neuqua Valley is part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. For more information about PLTW’s recognition program, visit pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition.

For more information on Neuqua Valley High School’s PLTW program or to set up a school visit, contact Lisa Traut at lisa_traut@ipsd.org.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for PreK-12 students and teachers across the U.S. PLTW empowers students to develop in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. PLTW’s teacher training and resources support teachers as they engage their students in real-world learning. Approximately 11,500 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs. For more information on Project Lead The Way, visit pltw.org.

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