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Media Contact:

Lisa Traut
Technology & Engineering Education Department Chair
lisa_traut@ipsd.org 630.428.6660

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 third 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 143 high schools across the U.S. and one of 11 in the state of Illinois to receive this honor. Waubonsie Valley and Metea Valley High Schools were also awarded this recognition. [PLTW](#) is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in over 12,200 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. “Receiving this honor for the 3rd year in a row confirms that we have a solid program in place and are preparing our students for the challenges they will face moving forward. The PLTW program has been in our school for the past 9 years and each year our teachers challenge our students with real-world problems and scenarios so when they move to post-secondary education and beyond, they are prepared to be problem solvers in whatever career path they choose.”

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 High School had to meet the following criteria:

- Offer and had students enrolled in at least three PLTW courses; **(Neuqua Valley offers 5 courses and our 6th [Aerospace Engineering] will start in the fall of 2020)**
- Had 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; **(51% of our students took 2 or more PLTW courses)**
- Had 95 percent of students take the End-of-Course (EoC) assessments; **(99% of our students took the EoC assessment)**
- Had strategies and procedures in place that support reasonably proportional representation with regard to race, ethnicity, poverty, gender and can support such claims with relevant data.

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 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 providing students with an excellent educational experience,” said Dr. Vince Bertram, President and CEO of PLTW. “They should be very proud of their work to ensure 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’s PLTW program or to set up a school visit, contact Department Chair Lisa Traut at lisa_traut@ipsd.org.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a mission-driven organization that is transforming the learning experience for millions of PreK-12 students and thousands of 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 12,200 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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