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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 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 133 high schools across the U.S. to receive this honor. [PLTW](#) is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of K-12 students and teachers in over 10,500 schools across the U.S.

Neuqua Valley High School PLTW teacher Anthony Tegtmeyer stated “As a former engineer, I love how the PLTW curriculum incorporates real world, hands-on problem solving in the classroom. The critical thinking skills students must use are required in every job today and tomorrow.”

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 confirms that we have hired the right teachers for our program who are committed to doing what it takes to put students first 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 High School had to meet the following criteria:

- 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; **(48% 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](#). **(80% of our students earned a Proficient or higher on the PLTW EOC Assessments)**

Empowering students to thrive in an evolving world.



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 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 High School is part of a community of K-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, Dept. Chair, at lisa_traut@ipsd.org.

About PLTW

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-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. More than 10,500 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](http://visitpltw.org).

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