

For Immediate Release Date: 4-18-13

Contact: Joe Garza, Superintendent, 262-789-6200

## New Berlin Schools Earn Project Lead the Way Certification for STEM Education

Certification may earn students college admissions preference, college credit and scholarships

A national organization focused on STEM education has certified New Berlin Eisenhower's Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Pathway to Engineering program and has re-certified New Berlin West's PLTW program.

The national PLTW recognition program distinguishes schools for successfully demonstrating a commitment to the national standards in STEM education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

"Achieving this important milestone demonstrates the quality implementation of your program, as well as your dedication to preparing students for the global economy," said Sam Cox, vice president of operations for Project Lead the Way.

Certification as a PLTW school also provides students with the opportunity to apply for college credit or receive college-level recognition at PLTW affiliate universities when they successfully complete select PLTW courses in high school. PLTW has more than 40 affiliate college and university partners nationwide, including the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

School District of New Berlin Superintendent Joe Garza credited staff at Eisenhower, West and the District Office for their hard work on fostering a program that focuses on students' college and career readiness.

"We've seen how the PLTW program draws more students to engineering and technology courses and gets them thinking about college and their careers," Garza said. "We are extremely proud to be PLTW certified."

In order to remain competitive in the global economy, America needs approximately 400,000 STEM college graduates annually, according to a National Business Roundtable report. Currently, the U.S. is graduating only 265,000 annually. PLTW is providing students with the skills, foundation, and proven path to college and career success in STEM areas to increase the number of STEM graduates.

PLTW banners are being sent to both high schools to proudly display the certifications.

###

## **About PLTW**

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education curricular programs used in schools. PLTW's comprehensive curriculum has been collaboratively designed by PLTW teachers, university educators, engineering and biomedical professionals, and school administrators to promote critical thinking, creativity, innovation and real-world problem solving skills in students. The hands-on, project-based program engages students on multiple levels, exposes them to areas of study that they typically do not pursue, and provides them with a foundation and proven path to college and career success. More than 4,200 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are currently offering PLTW courses to their students. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.pltw.org">www.pltw.org</a>.