

## **SDNB Berlin Committed to Project Based Coursework**

### *Master Teacher and Grant for STEM Safety Enhance District Curriculum*

New Berlin, Wis. – The School District of New Berlin (SDNB) is celebrating another nationally-recognized Project Lead the Way Master Teacher and a grant awarded to ensure students in project based courses and activities are safe as they learn new skills.

The district's two PLTW Master Teachers are helping expand curricular and extracurricular programming in STEM career fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

STEM jobs are expected to grow 17 percent by 2018 - nearly double the growth for non-STEM jobs, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. But more than 1.2 million STEM jobs are expected to be unfilled by 2018 due to a shortage of workers with the needed skillsets to take these jobs. As a result, the School District of New Berlin has significantly increased STEM related course offerings and co-curriculars over the past few years.

“We believe STEM instruction benefits all students by helping them understand the world around them and helps them develop important life skills,” Superintendent Joe Garza said.. “Through STEM curriculum, students can apply what they are learning in their core coursework on projects while they advance their collaboration and problem solving skills. These learning experiences will benefit them in whatever path they choose after high school. “

### **PLTW Master Teacher Brings National Knowledge & Skills back to SDNB**

William Trudell, a teacher at New Berlin West Middle/High School, was selected to serve as a Master Teacher for the national Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program. Fellow SDNB teacher Devin McKinnon was selected as a PLTW Master Teacher during the 2014-15 school year.

Master teachers help facilitate core training sessions for fellow PLTW educators, collaborate with university faculty and other master teachers nationwide, and demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the full scope and breadth of PLTW curricula.

Trudell currently teaches Principles of Engineering, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Digital Electronics, and Engineering Design and Development. He also serves as a content coach for the District. Trudell supports the district with curriculum design and supports other staff members as needed in the areas of Engineering, IT/Computer Science, Business, Marketing and Innovation/Entrepreneurship. He has also been instrumental in developing new co-curricular programs such as the Vintage Racing and BUILD team, the Future City (civil engineering) program and Skills USA.

Trudell said he was “honored” to be selected as a PLTW Master Teacher. “Through this experience, I was able to share with other educators what I have learned through the teaching and implementation of the PLTW curriculum in the School District of New Berlin,” he said.

“I also learned new methods and strategies that I could take back to my classroom and implement immediately. I continue to act as a resource for PLTW teachers both inside and outside of the district as they

develop their capacity to implement and teach PLTW coursework to their students. It is truly rewarding,” Trudell said.

The SDNB provides the PLTW’s Gateway to Technology curriculum at its middle schools as well as PLTW Engineering, Computer Science, and Biomedical coursework at its high schools. The district annually operates at least one section of every offered PLTW class to ensure that interested students have access to the full course progression. If New Berlin Eisenhower and New Berlin West are not both offering a class, the school district provides students with transportation between the two schools.

### **Keeping STEM Course Students Safe with Safe Saw Initiative**

The Waukesha County Medical Society (WCMS) has awarded SDNB with a \$2,500 grant to help fund the purchase of a SawStop® table saw for its engineering, manufacturing and construction classes.

WCMS has launched a Safe Saw Initiative aimed at reducing the prevalence of table saw accidents by encouraging local high schools to use finger-sensing technology saws.

Table saw injuries result in emergency room visits for nearly 40,000 Americans annually, with about 10 percent requiring amputations. Injuries can be prevented when saws are properly equipped with blade guards. SawStop® is the only saw with finger-sensing technology that shuts down the machine when it comes into contact with skin, but the product can be cost-prohibitive for many schools.

WCMS is a professional membership society for more than 800 physicians, residents and medical students working and living in Waukesha County. It is the local affiliate of the Wisconsin Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

“We are extremely thankful to partner organizations like the Waukesha County Medical Society for supporting our local schools,” Superintendent Garza said. “We simply can not do what we do without strong community partnerships!”

Related link: [photo gallery](#) from WCMS grant award presentation

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