Orlando Science Schools Adopts Project Lead The Way (PLTW) STEM Education Program to Better Prepare Students for Jobs of the Future

Orlando Science schools glad to announce that it has adopted Project Lead The Way’s (PLTW) high school pathway to engineering program for the 2015-2016 school year. PLTW is the nation’s leading provider of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs, and Orlando Science Schools joins more than 6,500 schools across the U.S. in offering PLTW programs to students in grades K-12.

Through PLTW Engineering™, students learn to apply engineering, science, math, and technology to solve complex, open-ended problems in a real-world context. Students focus on the process of defining and solving a problem, not on getting the "right" answer. They learn how to apply STEM knowledge, skills, and habits of mind to make the world a better place through innovation.

Orlando Science is proud to offer PLTW to our students and give them an advantage over their peers in college and their careers. PLTW has a long history of successfully engaging students in STEM subjects, and we believe our community will also see the benefits of PLTW as these students turn into the next generation of highly skilled employees for our local businesses.

Students with STEM skills are in high demand. A 2012 Pay Scale study shows that the most valuable college degrees through 2020 will be in STEM fields. Many PLTW Engineering graduates have said that it influenced their post-secondary decisions and helped shape their future, and students often have the opportunity to earn college credit, admissions preferences, or scholarships for completed PLTW courses. Even for students who do not plan to pursue engineering after high school, the PLTW Engineering program provides opportunities to develop highly transferable skills in collaboration, communication, and critical thinking, which are relevant for any coursework or career.

“In today’s global economy, our students are competing not just against each other but against their peers all over the world,” said Vince Bertram, president and chief executive officer of PLTW. “It is more critical now than ever before that our education system helps students develop the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills that will prepare them for the global economy.”

In addition to providing world-class K-12 STEM programs, PLTW provides high-quality professional development training that equips teachers with the content, skills, and pedagogy required to teach each PLTW course. PLTW schools also benefit from the organization’s engaged network of Fortune 500 companies, educators, and partners. School-based PLTW Partnership Teams complement the curriculum by recruiting local business and industry professionals to serve as mentors and share their real-world experiences with students.

About PLTW
Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the nation’s leading provider of K-12 STEM programs. PLTW’s world-class, activity-, project-, and problem-based curriculum and high-quality teacher professional development model, combined with an engaged network of educators and corporate partners, help students develop the skills needed to succeed in our global economy. More than 6,500 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are currently offering PLTW courses to their students. For more information, visit www.pltw.org.

http://www.forbes.com/sites/jennagoudreau/2012/05/15/best-top-most-valuable-college-majors-degrees/