



OPAS Prepare Workgroup
PLTW Worksession
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Project Lead The Way in Brief

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is driven by a national non-profit organization (www.pltw.org) that provides infrastructure such as curriculum development, assessments, and teacher professional development to create and support science, engineering, and engineering technology education in high schools and middle schools.

All students can benefit from the academic rigor of PLTW's standards-based curriculum and practice critical and analytical thinking and problem-solving in a project-based, open-ended environment. In most schools, PLTW is part of a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program preparing students for further education and careers.

PLTW is currently ramping up in Oregon with 14 schools expected to offer PLTW courses in the fall of 2008. The Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT - <http://www.oit.edu/programs/met/pltw>) is the state affiliate university for PLTW.

The Oregon Pre-Engineering and Applied Sciences Initiative (OPAS - <http://opas.ous.edu/>) believes that PLTW, done well, provides a research-based and documented method to recruit more students to engineering and applied science college programs and careers. It also gives all students a more engaging and relevant context for and a deeper understanding of math, science, technology, and design -- important 21st century skills.

- Slideshow “Project Lead the Way Pre-Engineering Curriculum” compares PLTW to a traditional curriculum - http://opas.ous.edu//PLTW_Advocacy/STEM_Preengineering_Curriculum.pdf
- PLTW in Oregon has been supported by grants from Intel, NSF/ODE, and ETIC - [http://opas.ous.edu//PLTW_Advocacy/PLTW_OR_Grants\)011808.pdf](http://opas.ous.edu//PLTW_Advocacy/PLTW_OR_Grants)011808.pdf)
- Schools in Oregon as of December 31, 2007 - http://opas.ous.edu//PLTW_Advocacy/PLTW_in_OR_123107.pdf
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) students outperform their peers on Oregon benchmarks - http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/Publications/ODE_OR_CTEataGlance_2006-07.pdf
- Evaluation of PLTW programs includes longitudinal tracking, and shows that PLTW is at least as successful at attracting women as college programs, and most underrepresented groups do well; the exception is at the lowest socioeconomic status schools - http://opas.ous.edu//Committees/Resources/Publications/PLTWProgramEvaluation_2006-07.pdf
- PLTW Courses are already part of an agreement seamlessly linking 9 Oregon community colleges to OIT’s Manufacturing Engineering Technology degree program – http://opas.ous.edu//Workgroups2007/Pathways/OPAS_Pathways_GoodNews_May07.pdf. PLTW courses also count as college credits for certain fundamentals classes in OIT’s Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering Technology programs.
- PLTW is piloting a biomedical curriculum - <http://www.pltw.org/curriculum/hs-biomedical-science.html>