PLTW 2022 Annual Report
Over the next 10 years, PLTW’s goal is to drive annual double-digit percentage growth in our reach to U.S. PreK-12 students in schools and beyond. Fifty percent of PLTW students will be in our nation’s highest need schools.

As we serve more students, we commit to driving strong student impact:

• Increased interest/engagement and/or proficiency on key transportable skills important for college and career success (with differentiated measures by grade band).
• Narrowed difference in average outcomes across student groups.

To our network of partners,

As PLTW’s new President and Chief Executive Officer, I look forward to serving our mission-driven organization that I’ve had the opportunity to be a part of for more than a decade. As a former teacher and administrator, I understand how important our work is to students and educators in communities throughout the U.S. I’ve also witnessed our work as a parent of three PLTW students.

In our 25-year history, PLTW has reached millions of students, tens of thousands of educators, and has brought real-world learning into PreK-12 classrooms. Our relevant learning experiences help students get excited about and prepared for future opportunities in life and work. Through our North Star, we are committed to serving more students, driving greater student impact, and supporting educators for the next 25 years and beyond.

What our annual report reveals is the power of our network. Even though we are still in unprecedented times, we continue to serve more students due to strong program growth and grant opportunities from our generous partners. In order to serve more students we must continuously improve our best-in-class curriculum and our professional development for our teachers.

PLTW accomplished that this year with over 14,000 teacher training registrations, which is the highest ever in our 25-year history. We also deepened our commitment to educational equity and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) through curriculum enhancements, which is mission-critical to achieve our North Star.

As we reflect on our accomplishments this past fiscal year, we prepare for further innovation and strategic alliances to expand student opportunities, impact, and reach. Your support means more students inspired, teachers trained, and PLTW programs implemented. We also continue our commitment to educational equity and DEIB through curriculum enhancements.

Thank you,

David L. Dimmett, EdD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Project Lead The Way
We continue to see STRONG GROWTH.

While the COVID-19 pandemic still creates challenges for schools, our growth numbers indicate that schools and districts across the U.S. see the value of the PLTW curriculum. We are serving more students than ever and making progress toward our North Star. We have awarded over $17 million in grants to jump-start implementation or expansion of PLTW programs for more than 1,500 schools.

98,462 Teachers Trained

15,489 Programs

12,818 Schools

2.27 Million Students*

*Estimated student count is determined from rostering data and modeling.

Available in all 50 states, D.C., and U.S. territories

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

PLTW GRANTS

$17.6 million in grants awarded to 1,519 recipients

34% rural

31% urban

35% suburban

68% high need

PLTW recognizes our newest Transformative Partners, Ardagh Group and NI.

In 2021, Ardagh Group made a $12 million multi-year commitment to the PLTW Grants program as part of its global Sustainability Strategy. This investment will bring STEM career learning to PreK-12 students near Ardagh’s U.S. facilities, strengthening the STEM-talent pipeline in those communities.

Since 2008, NI has partnered with PLTW to provide students across the U.S. with access to cutting-edge hardware and software and continues this commitment. In FY22, NI also supported schools in Austin, Texas, for the first year of a four-year, $400,000 initial investment to expand access to PLTW programs among underrepresented and underserved students.
We deliver a best-in-class INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM.

In December 2021, we released an updated Animated Storytelling module for 1st Grade and an updated Grids and Games module for 2nd Grade. Both focus on student learning with the Use-Modify-Create framework and includes updated teacher support, a relabeled table of contents in the PLTW Launch Log, and other enhancements. For 5th Grade, we updated the Robotics and Automation and Robotics and Automation: Challenge modules, including a new version of the robot chassis and resources that support the use of multiple VEX IQ kits.

The PLTW Biomedical Science program now offers additional support for both students and teachers related to industry certifications or credentials in biomedical science. The resources provide information related to exams such as the Biotechnician Assistant Credentialing Exam (BACE), as well as links to other opportunities.

Joining PLTW in 2015 as an Instructional Developer, Elizabeth is now the Director of Production, PreK-8 for the PLTW Launch and PLTW Gateway products, and she leads the organization’s strides in accessibility. Elizabeth uses her engineering skills every day. She said, “PLTW is a great place to work as an engineer because I get to apply my engineering knowledge and expand on my skills and experiences by working with professionals with tremendously diverse backgrounds. I also get to contribute to making an impact on students and teachers across the country exploring STEM fields.”

“In my role at PLTW, I have the opportunity to shape another student’s life the way that my two favorite PLTW teachers did for me.”
We celebrate and engage our REMARKABLE NETWORK.

Through PLTW Program Recognition, we recognized more than 600 Distinguished Schools and Districts. We also honored the incredible work of PLTW educators across the country with our PLTW National Awards. We recognized 93 educators and hosted 10 localized events across the country to celebrate.

PLTW completed three Impact Profiles representing 15,522 PLTW students and counting. Impact profiles are case studies that highlight what we call evidence in action. We look nationwide for high-quality examples of what research and best practice tell us. The impact profiles are exemplars of where we see students being served and set up for future success. These impact profiles raise up the organizations, schools, and the communities that are involved.

Albert Manero, PhD, first discovered PLTW courses as a ninth grader at East Lake High School, Tarpon Springs, FL. He discovered a passion for engineering and design, and he later translated that into multiple advanced degrees in aerospace engineering from the University of Central Florida. He and some friends founded Limbitless Solutions, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals through personalized, creative, and expressive bionics at no cost to the families.

Through his organization, Albert “pays it forward” by employing multiple PLTW alumni in a multi-disciplinary internship program. Albert said, “My hope for ... the next generation of innovators is that when things are difficult or you feel like you’re struggling with a particular skill, you don’t give up. Engineering is so much more a test of resiliency and creativity than it is of doing well at the math classes or making sure your homework is done.”

“Having access to learn what engineering is and what those career paths look like early on is something that not everyone has. I was really fortunate to be able to learn about what the future could look like.”
We commit more deeply to EDUCATIONAL EQUITY.

In 2021, PLTW established its official Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) statement. While this was an exciting and necessary first step for our organization, we knew even as it was established that words don’t matter without action. Since the inception of this foundational statement, PLTW has organized an internal DEIB advisory council comprised of a cross-sectional group of team members who help accelerate our DEIB efforts, activities, and strategic objectives. We instituted a speaker series to elevate and educate our team members, and we began celebrating cultural heritage holidays internally and externally.

Read our commitment statement online here: https://www.pltw.org/deib-commitment

We’ve amplified our team members’ voice to recognize and support our workforce.

Committing to DEIB through curriculum enhancement.

75 Units/Modules/Courses were enhanced using the DEIB validation tool throughout all PLTW programs.

FUN FACT: Jane Iglesia is a real PLTW Team Member. She is awesome!

Creation of an Internal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEIB) Advisory Council

Enriched Cultural Awareness and Heritage Celebrations

Implemented New Team Member DEIB Onboarding Strategy

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

When Abhay Pranav and Mihir Surlaker entered Bob Caprilles’s PLTW Engineering Essentials classroom at Fremont High School in Sunnyvale, California, they had no way of knowing that the skills they would learn would apply across other disciplines, but that’s exactly what happened. The two freshmen, both members of the school’s Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club, partnered with other students on a submission to a Shark Tank competition. Mihir said, “In our class, we learned how to make systems thinking diagrams, which sparked the idea of making a diagram for our project.” That diagram caught the judges’ eye, and Mihir and Abhay won their school event, advancing to the next round of competition.

Eventually, the students earned a spot at the FBLA nationals competition in Chicago. Abhay said, “I realized how using the concepts I learned from PLTW has helped my team and I to win second in the state for this event, which lets us qualify for nationals. We are freshmen, who went against juniors and seniors in this event, and we still qualified.”

“The skills I’ve learned from PLTW have been applied to everything I’ve seen when I look hard enough.”

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We prepare students to THRIVE IN THE FUTURE.

Success in today’s world requires more. We know PLTW students are ready for more, and PLTW has committed to assessing and researching more of what matters most. We have an obligation to look at skills students are developing and how they match with what employers need.

Data shows that measuring in-demand, transportable skills (problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and ethical reasoning) at the same time as subject-specific skills can mitigate the gender and racial bias that has been present in standardized testing for decades.

To support this, the PLTW Research Team focused its research agenda in four key areas this year:

- student interest and engagement
- transportable and technical skills
- PreK-12 and post-secondary outcomes
- teacher efficacy, skill, and satisfaction

The results of research involving PLTW teachers and students as well as partner research with Burning Glass suggest that PLTW students outpace non-PLTW students in skill areas employers seek.

In a study of female high school students in PLTW, 76% indicated they believe they can become an engineer and 62% indicated PLTW has encouraged them to major in STEM in college.

84% of PLTW Gateway teachers claim their students have a better understanding of STEM opportunities because of their experiences in PLTW.

82% agree or strongly agree
I can build an argument using logic and defend my point of view.

80% agree or strongly agree
I try something different if my first approach to solving a problem doesn’t work, even if it takes me longer.

81% agree or strongly agree
I am able to examine the strengths and weaknesses of my solutions to problems.

82% agree or strongly agree
I am able to examine the strengths and weaknesses of my own views on a topic of issue.

91% of STEM occupations request in-demand, transportable skills in a majority of openings.

What are students saying about PLTW?
High School Survey from End-of-Course Assessments 21-22

Eunice Heath worked at Dow Chemical Company for more than 30 years. As Corporate Director of Sustainability, she was responsible for the planning and implementation of the Dow 2025 Sustainability Goals, sustainability integration, and next generation strategy development. She has served in numerous roles, including senior director of government affairs (Northeast) and corporate citizenship, global general manager of Dow’s home and personal care division, a three-year assignment in Switzerland as global business director, and a leader on the Dow corporate inclusion council. She also served on the environmental justice steering committee. An advocate for mentorship and inspiring the next generation of scientists, Eunice actively shares her educational and career experiences with students of all ages.

Eunice was instrumental in developing a comprehensive STEM education strategy at Dow, which led to a summer immersion program sponsored by the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). It was then that she learned about PLTW and joined the PLTW Board of Directors in 2012, where she now serves as Vice Chair. Through her leadership, Dow and PLTW have partnered to extend grants to elementary and middle schools seeking to implement PLTW programs near five Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in alignment with Dow’s commitment to enhance the Black STEM talent pipeline.

“Project Lead The Way is enabling the next generation workforce to be ready for the challenges and the opportunities to enable a sustainable future. And that all comes from the strong foundation that PLTW provides for teachers as well as students.”

We elevate expectations for EDUCATOR EDUCATION.

Providing an exceptional educational experience for our educators continues to be a top priority. Core Training is a robust and interactive professional development opportunity taught by expertly trained PLTW Master Teachers. They facilitate and deliver the online learning experience through a dynamic mix of live sessions, as well as interactive and collaborative, cohort-based opportunities that help build lasting professional learning communities. Credentialed teachers leave Core Training feeling empowered to deliver the meaningful learning experiences our students deserve.

500+ Master Teachers

14,000+ Training Registrations

200,000+ Total credits issued to educators

11,000+ PLTW Core Training Participants

“I wish more classes would look more like PLTW classes. Students learn how to fail and problem solve to find solutions; they learn persistence & perseverance. Most days my students are working harder at learning the content than I am at teaching it - I get to sit back and coach them through.”

-Gateway teacher

92% were very or somewhat likely to recommend PLTW to a fellow teacher.

74% report that Core Training made them more effective as a teacher.

85% of teachers report that Core Training made them more effective at teaching students who are less engaged in STEM.

71% are confident in using PLTW Teacher as Facilitator and APB instructional approaches.

“Prior to PLTW, I was facing burn out in my teaching career. PLTW made teaching and learning fun again for both myself and for my students.”

-Launch/Gateway teacher

“We honor Amy Baldwin with the 2021 Robert & Patricia Kern National Teacher of the Year Award for her strong record of delivering an inspiring and empowering student experience in the PLTW Gateway program at Oakbrook Middle School located in Ladson, South Carolina, where she has been a teacher for 21 years. Amy was chosen from nominations received from across the country.

Amy walks into her classroom each and every day with a smile on her face and a passion for what she teaches. The students are eager to learn and collaborate with one another in a technology enhanced environment.”

- Kimberly Boutin, Principal

Teachers and administrators across PLTW’s network of schools do amazing things every day to impact lives of their students. Each year, we recognize those who have made significant impacts in their classrooms, schools, and communities through the PLTW National Awards.

Amy Baldwin, 2021 Robert & Patricia Kern National Teacher of the Year at Oakbrook Middle School, Ladson, South Carolina.
FISCAL YEAR 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Revenue (including Contributions) $115.7 mm

Total Expense (including Grant Releases) $110.7 mm

Total Grants Committed for Schools $17.6 mm

For fiscal year 2022, PLTW’s total expenses were approximately $111 million. The chart below shows how these funds were deployed.

- Equipment & Supplies (Cost of Goods Sold): 48%
- Curriculum Development & School Engagement: 26%
- Grants to Schools: 11%
- Management & Administration: 9%
- Marketing & Events: 3%
- Research & Government Affairs: 3%
- Fundraising: 1%

Total Funds Raised $12.4 mm

Total Grants Committed for Schools $17.6 mm

PLTW EXPENSES

INFLUENCING POLICY

Through influence, relationships, and support of policy makers, PLTW’s Policy and Government Relations Team is focused on developing and implementing a policy framework that supports PLTW and our North Star initiatives in the following ways:

- Pursuing equity and inclusivity
- Representing trends in the education and workforce landscape
- Aligning to the objectives of PLTW’s network of districts and schools across the country
- Informed by PLTW research

FY22 WINS:

The team is on their way to completing all 50 legislative session reports. We created 29 end-of-session reports that document relevant legislation enrolled as law for states. Anticipate completing the rest of the reports once the remaining states’ legislative sessions have ended and their governors have responded.

- MI, CA, FL: Secured/progressing funding for Computer Science Professional Development, including protecting a $10 million line item.
- OH, CA, NM: Supported legislation related to improving overall STEM learning opportunities and College and Career Ready pathways.
- MI, OH, CA, LA, MN, KS: Passed/making progress on legislation related to CS requirements.
- Influenced policy at the federal level. PLTW educated Congressional Staff Members on the importance and nature of STEM ecosystems. These conversations played into the passing of the CHIPS Act. The team provided an analysis of this federal legislation, highlighting potential opportunities for PLTW and its network.
- PLTW engages with local STEM ecosystems in a number of states, including Michigan, California, Arizona, Texas, as well as the Kansas City area and others.

Enacted legislation and policy in key states. PLTW has logged action on filed legislation in nine states: CA, FL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MN, NM, and OH.
“Transformative Partner” is PLTW’s highest designation of partnership, indicating an organization’s exceptional commitment to increasing access to the most relevant and high-quality STEM curriculum for students across the country. Transformative Partners support the advancement of PLTW’s mission and goals in a variety of ways, including supporting the PLTW School Grant program, funding special projects and initiatives, advising on curriculum and training, and supporting students and educators through special opportunities.

PLTW’s diverse partnerships include Fortune 500 corporations, local businesses, foundations, nonprofits, and more, and partner organizations support PLTW in a variety of ways. We applaud these partners for their dedication to high-quality STEM and career learning.

*Those listed in bold made new financial commitments to PLTW in 2021-22.*

- 3D Molecular Design
- 3M
- Adecco
- Afinia 3D
- Amcor Foundation
- American Structurepoint
- ArcelorMittal/Nippon Steel Calvert
- Arconic Foundation
- Arthur F Blanchard Charitable Trust
- Ascension
- Astellas USA Foundation
- Atlas Holdings, LLC
- BAE Systems
- Banker Steel Company, LLC
- Bayer Corporation
- Beckman Coulter
- BioDigital
- Boeing
- Boston Scientific
- Burns & McDonnell
- Burns Engineering
- Carolina Biological
- Cell Zone
- Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- CME Group Foundation
- Competitive Power Ventures, Inc
- Cooperative Energy
- Dow Company Foundation
- Dremel DigiLab
- Edvotek
- Electronix Express
- Entergy Charitable Foundation
- EGT Foundation
- Finch Paper LLC
- Fisher Science Educationz
- General Electric
- GlawSmithKline
- Granite Shore Power
- Hologic
- Iconex, LLC
- Indiana Commission for Higher Education
- Indiana Department of Education
- Intellek
- Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council
- J.M. Huber Corporation
- Johnson Controls
- Jones Bartlett Learning
- Kern Family Foundation
- Lab-Aids
- Leidos
- Los Angeles Lakers Youth Foundation
- Luna Language Service
- Marcal Manufacturing, LC
- Mass STEM Hub
- Massachusetts Governor’s Advisory Council on STEM
- Massachusetts Life Sciences Center
- Medtronic Foundation
- Microbit
- Matus, LLC
- Nevada Department of Education
- New Orleans Saints
- NextEra Foundation
- Novipax
- One8 Foundation
- Pentair
- P-top
- RedBuilt
- Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Roblox
- Roche Corporation
- Rockwell Automation
- Samsung
- SENEDIA - Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance
- Snap Circuits
- Solid Professor
- STEM Premier
- Strada Education Network
- Total Energies
- Tennessee Department of Education
- Tesla
- The Goizueta Foundation
- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.
- Twin Rivers Paper Company LLC
- Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.
- Veritas Steel LLC
- Vex
- Wards Science
- Weyerhaeuser
- Winston Plywood & Veneer
- Your Image Works
- Cripe
- Zahourek Systems