



Fluvanna County High School Recognized by Project Lead the Way for Its Quality Pre-Engineering Program

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and Old Dominion University have recognized Fluvanna County High School by certifying that its Project Lead the Way Pre-Engineering and Engineering Technology Program has met the stringent standards of quality set by the college. Fluvanna County High School is one of only five schools certified by PLTW in the state of Virginia.

Gail Parsons, regional director of Project Lead the Way, said that Fluvanna County High School has demonstrated its commitment to the quality standards of the PLTW program by having Joe Mayes, teacher of pre-engineering, trained during the summer and by teaching the PLTW courses using the latest computer software.

Mrs. Parsons recognized the district's commitment to teacher and counselor ongoing training during the school year. "A crucial element to the success of the program is regularly updating teacher skills and promoting counselor awareness of the latest PLTW initiatives for students," Mrs. Parsons said.

The certification process included a self-assessment of the PLTW program and a one-day site visit by Mrs. Parsons, Ms. Marcie Gerdin, and Mr. Jerry Robertson from the engineering department at Old Dominion University. The site visit committee met with the teacher, administrators, counselors, students, and community members, and reviewed students' course portfolios.

"The district also provides an invaluable opportunity to its students through the certification process. Students may now apply for transcribed college credit or other forms of recognition at a variety of national-affiliate colleges and universities, if they demonstrate exemplary work in their pre-engineering courses and pass the appropriate PLTW end-of-course examination," said Mrs. Parsons.

Project Lead the Way is taught at Fluvanna County High School by Mr. Joe Mayes. This year 51 students are enrolled in the introduction to engineering course and 11 students are enrolled in the principles of engineering course. Next year the High School plans to offer computer-integrated manufacturing to its program of studies. The program was partially funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Education.

Funded by Charitable Venture Foundation, Project Lead the Way, a not-for-profit organization, is a national program that is offered in over 42 states and in over 900 schools from New York to California and Michigan to Florida. It was begun to address the national shortage of engineers and engineering technologists.



Robert Thompson and Frank Wilson from the Introduction to Engineering Design course are pictured with the completed scale model of their tree house play set, complete with water cannons.