



FLUVANNA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AWARDED \$50,000 GRANT TO IMPLEMENT PRE-ENGINEERING PROGRAM

Fluvanna County Public Schools has received a grant award from the Virginia Department of Education to implement a pre-engineering program called Project Lead the Way (PLTW). Project Lead the Way offers a four-year sequence of courses which, when combined with college preparatory mathematics and science courses in high school, introduces students to the scope, rigor, and discipline of engineering and engineering technology prior to entering college. The high school program centers on developing better problem-solving skills by immersing students in real-world engineering problems. Each of the courses uses project-based, hands-on experiences to teach students the key elements and skills of engineering and technology-based careers.

Beginning in the 2006-2007 school year, Fluvanna County High School will begin offering Introduction to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering. Additional courses to be offered over the next three years are Digital Electronics, Civil Engineering/Architecture, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Engineering Design and Development, and possibly Biotechnology Foundations or Bioengineering. The program requires course instructors to participate in an intense summer training program. Students are given the opportunity at the completion of the course to take a PLTW college-credit exam. Students who score 70 percent or higher on the exam may be eligible for college credit.

The \$50,000 grant requires a match from the school system. Four grants were awarded in the state.