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**CATHOLIC MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVES  
PROJECT LEAD THE WAY CERTIFICATION FOR STEM EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Catholic Memorial High School Students Now Eligible to Receive College Level Recognition at PLTW Affiliate Universities for Certain “Pathway To Engineering” Courses

Waukesha, Wis. – Catholic Memorial High School (CMH) announced today that it has received national certification for the Project Lead The Way program that it has been offering for the last three years. Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a non-profit organization and the nation’s leading provider of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, offers a rigorous curriculum that allows students to apply what they are learning in math and science class to real-life engineering and technology projects. A National Business Roundtable report states that to remain competitive in the global marketplace, America needs to graduate 400,000 science, engineering, mathematics and technical four-year degrees annually, yet we are currently graduating only 265,000. PLTW is providing students with a foundation and proven path to college and career success in these areas and to fill the high-tech, high-skill jobs of the 21 century.

The primary purposes of the certification program are to recognize schools that have successfully demonstrated a commitment to the quality national standards of the Pathway To Engineering program and to provide an opportunity for students to apply for college credit at PLTW affiliate Universities for selected PLTW courses. PLTW has more than 35 affiliate college and university partners that offer students credit for completing certain PLTW courses in high school, including Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) in Wisconsin.

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Bob Hall, principal of Catholic Memorial High School said, “We’ve seen how the PLTW program draws more students to engineering and technology courses and gets them thinking about college and their career. We are extremely proud to be PLTW certified and ecstatic that our students can begin receiving college-level recognition including credits for certain PLTW classes.”

Hall and a team composed of teachers, staff, students, and members of the community completed a self-assessment of the school’s implementation of the Pathway to Engineering program that culminated in a site visit by a national PLTW certification specialist. The certification team met with teachers, administration, counselors, students, community representatives and reviewed student work.

“Catholic Memorial High School has demonstrated its commitment to the quality standards of PLTW’s Pathway To Engineering program and the real winners are CMH students,” said Thor S. Misko, interim CEO of PLTW. “Students are benefiting from an innovative curriculum that encourages creativity, problem solving and critical thinking and on top of that, they can earn college credit for some of these courses, gain admissions preference and receive scholarships. We congratulate the entire Catholic Memorial High School community and look forward to many more years of working together to prepare CMH students to become the most innovative and productive in the world.”

Teachers are a critical component of the success of the PLTW program. All teachers are required to complete an intensive two-week professional development course during the summer before they can teach a PLTW course. Students who enroll in PLTW courses also benefit from the organization’s strong university and industry relationships that allow students to begin working toward their college degree and gain valuable experience through internships and local business executives who serve as mentors.



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Rose Hoffmann, CMH mathematics and computer science teacher, added, “The beauty of PLTW courses is that our kids get to experience how a formula they learned in math applies to a real-world project. In class, there are no lectures – kids are building, developing and creating. That is the kind of hands-on experience that will engage more students in fields that they might otherwise never consider.”

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### **About Catholic Memorial High School**

Catholic Memorial High School of Waukesha is an Archdiocesan Catholic college preparatory high school serving 744 students from the Waukesha County area. The school was established in 1949 to honor the sacrifices of 23 local servicemen lost in World War II.

Catholic Memorial High School was selected by the National Catholic High School Honor Roll as one of its top 50 schools in the United States. The Honor Roll recognizes academic institutions distinguished by academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education.

At Catholic Memorial High School, we educate students as individuals, intellectually and spiritually. We guide students to work to their highest, God-given potential. We prepare them for postsecondary education to become leaders who serve the Church and the world.

For more information about Catholic Memorial High School, visit [www.catholicmemorial.net](http://www.catholicmemorial.net).

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## **About PLTW**

Project Lead The Way is a national, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative STEM education curricular programs used in K-12 schools. PLTW's comprehensive curriculum, which is collaboratively developed by PLTW teachers, university educators, engineering and biomedical professionals, and school administrators, emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, innovation, and real-world problem solving – all important skills for students to develop in today's 21st century global economy.

The hands-on, project-based program engages students by showing them how what they are learning in math and science class applies to real-world challenges. The program exposes students to areas of study that they typically do not pursue and provides them with a foundation and proven path to college and career success in STEM related fields.

PLTW began in 1997 in 12 high schools in upstate New York as a program designed to address the shortage of engineering students at the college level and has grown to a network of nearly 4,000 middle and high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. More than 350,000 students are expected to take a PLTW course during the coming school year.

For more information, visit [www.pltw.org](http://www.pltw.org).