



For Immediate Release
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**Thompson and Wredling Middle Schools Receive National Recognition for
Commitment to Empowering Students**

Named a distinguished school for STEM and career learning program

[St. Charles, IL] – Community Unit School District 303 announced today that its two middle schools have been recognized as Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished Schools for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Gateway™. They are two of just 110 middle schools across the U.S. to receive this honor. [PLTW](http://pltw.org) is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of K-12 students and teachers in over 10,500 schools across the U.S.

“District 303 is thrilled that our middle schools have been recognized as offering two of the best Project Lead the Way Programs in the nation. When students participate in Project Lead The Way, they have the unique opportunity to engage in hands-on, innovative, rigorous, and relevant learning which contributes to their readiness for both college and career. This distinction could not have been possible without the dedicated and innovative teachers who daily support our students, and are committed to the Project Lead The Way program and philosophy.” said Dr. Melissa Byrne, Associate Director of Curriculum for District 303.

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, Thompson and Wredling Middle Schools had to meet the following criteria:

- Offer at least one PLTW Gateway unit at each grade level;
- Have more than 50 percent of the student body participating during the 2016-17 school year;
- Have 25 percent of students advancing to high school participate in two or more units.

Through PLTW programs, students develop STEM knowledge as well as in-demand, transportable skills that they will use both in school and for the rest of their lives, on any career path they take. PLTW Gateway empowers students to lead their own discovery and uncover a range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond.

Empowering students to thrive in an evolving world.



“It is a great honor to recognize Thompson and Wredling for their commitment to students,” said Vince Bertram, President and CEO of PLTW. “They are a model for what school should look like, and they should be very proud of ensuring students have the knowledge and skills to be career ready and successful on any career path they choose.”

Thompson and Wredling Middle Schools are part of a community of K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. For more information about PLTW’s recognition program, visit pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition.

For more information on Thompson and Wredling Middle Schools’ PLTW Gateway program or to set up a school visit, contact Dr. Melissa Byrne at 331.228.6733.

About PLTW

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-12 students and teachers across the U.S. PLTW empowers students to develop in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. PLTW’s teacher training and resources support teachers as they engage their students in real-world learning. More than 10,500 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs. For more information on Project Lead The Way, visit pltw.org.

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