

Dear Senator Plale,

My name is Sharon Tomski and I am a teacher at Thomas More High School in the Project Lead the Way program. Specifically, I teach 51 students in Introduction to Engineering Design and 21 students in Digital Electronics. Additional courses taught at my school include Principles of Engineering, taught by Ben Rezutek.

As you may know, the legislature and the Governor allocated funds last biennium for Project Lead the Way, a high school program that promotes achievement in math, science and technology, and prepares students for careers in engineering and technical fields. We are at a crucial time in our state's economy, as skilled workers retire and fewer students are prepared to take their place.

We are excited about our PLTW program. Almost half of our freshmen class this year elected to take Engineering Design. Our first class of student who began as freshmen in 2004 will take the Senior Capstone Course next year. In this class, they will work with mentors from local businesses and Marquette University on an intense, year-long design project.

It is important for our school, our students and our state to sustain this program. Our Engineering Partnership Team, which has members from Marquette University and local businesses like Rockwell Automation and Johnson Controls, are very supportive of our program. We also thank you for your support of this initiative.

Please accept this open invitation to visit our PLTW classes. They are offered every day from 7:55am to 1:30pm. I would be happy to arrange a visit with you and your staff at a time that is convenient for you. Please contact me at stomski@tmore.org

Sincerely,

Sharon J. Tomski
Pre-Engineering Department Chair
Thomas More High School