

Pleasanton Unified School District



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Foothill High Schools Celebrates its Biomedical Science Program

Pleasanton, California— Foothill High School held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 to debut their new Biomedical Science Program (BMS), a new academic opportunity for students starting this school year. Biomedical Science Program is part of Project Lead The Way (PLTW), the same organization that sponsors the Engineering academy program at Amador Valley High School.

The Biomedical Sciences Program (BMS) is intended for grades nine through 12 and explores human medicine, bioinformatics, cell biology, genetics, disease, and other biomedical topics through relevant problem-solving activities.

BMS courses complement traditional science courses and can serve as the foundation for STEM-centered or specialized academies. BMS is designed to prepare students to pursue a post-secondary education and careers in the biomedical sciences.

PLTW (Project Lead The Way) launched 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. The non-profit organization has experienced steady growth over the years. In the 2012-13 school year, more than 4,700 middle and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs.

Some results from PLTW include:

- PLTW alumni are studying engineering and technology at five to 10 times the average rate of all students.
- PLTW students have a higher retention rate in college engineering, science, and related programs than other students in those areas.
- 97% of PLTW seniors intend to pursue a four-year degree or higher, whereas the national average is 67%.

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