

## Building STEM Partnership Teams In Suburban Districts

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## Goals of this Presentation

- Review the process used to develop our STEM partnership team
- Discuss partnership team activities (past, present, and future)
- Introduce the technical diploma program, a collaborative project between local industry and the school district



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## Background

- Project Lead The Way requires all participating schools to have a partnership team
- Our previous PLTW coordinator left suddenly in the last week of August
- As a result, the existing partnership team lapsed into nonexistence



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## The Need for a New Partnership

- A new partnership team needed to be established quickly
- This partnership team would serve the needs of all STEM curricular and extracurricular activities, not just Project Lead The Way



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## Prior State

- Partners selected for their availability, not necessarily their qualifications
- Meetings irregular and in evenings
- Lack of meaningful partnership activities
- Meetings to talk about what the meetings should be about



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## Organizational Process

- Superintendent and coordinator identified qualified candidates for a new partnership team
- Members were invited personally and asked to participate
- An organizational meeting was planned to discuss scope, meeting times, and other relevant details



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## Organizational Process

- Meetings held in mornings (7:30 am to 9:30 am)
- Four meetings per year
- Meetings held both in classrooms and at partner facilities
- Web-based polling software used to schedule meetings



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## Meeting Agendas – Year One

- Review of current activities at all levels
- Partnership activities
  - New Civil Engineering and Architecture course planned with partner input
  - Input into HS scheduling reforms
  - Female engineers mentoring at the MS



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## Meeting Agendas – Year Two

- Career and post-secondary guidance program at the HS
- Piloting Engineering is Elementary in elementary buildings - with appropriate mentors
- Plan technical diploma program for manufacturing career opportunities



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## Current State

- Partnership team is entering its third academic year
- Meeting schedules are established and attendance is excellent
- Key stakeholders have invited themselves to participate (chamber of commerce, technical college system)



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## Key Lessons

- Partners need to be a good mix of tactical and strategic leaders
- Partners should be engaged quickly in partnership activities
- Partners need to be educated as to the current state before they can successfully give input and direction



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## Future Work

- Technical Degree Program
  - In partnership with local industry in Waukesha County (suburban county to Milwaukee)
  - Selected 11th and 12th grade students
  - Will complete high school requirements while learning job skills and preparing for trades, technical college, and 2+2 engineering programs



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- STEMForward (represented by both Rich Merkel and Van Walling)
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## Questions / Answers



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