



the sharp edge

Forging future generations of
engineering and science professionals



First Annual National Conference Focus on STEM's Future

Come celebrate a decade of Project Lead The Way's progress and look to the future of STEM education at PLTW's First Annual National Conference. The event takes place March 6-8, 2007, in PLTW's hometown of Albany, New York.

"This is a chance for members of the PLTW family and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics [STEM] educators to gather and share information and experiences," says Dick Blais, PLTW vice-president. "We've put together an exciting program for state leaders, affiliates, administrators, teachers, and others. We believe this will be a milestone in PLTW's history."

The theme of the conference is "The Next Decade—Forging the Future of STEM Education." The meeting, at the Albany Marriott, kicks off with a reception at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, and concludes at 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 8.

Shirley Ann Jackson, the president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), will deliver the keynote address on Tuesday evening. Since 1999, Dr. Jackson, a theoretical physicist, has led the development and implementation of the "Rensselaer Plan"—RPT's strategic blueprint



for restructuring the university's processes and procedures. The university has been associated with PLTW since the mid-1990s, serving as a development partner with Albany-area colleges and universities.

On Wednesday morning, PLTW CEO Richard Liebich, director emeritus Joseph Oakley, former director of curriculum Ken Ford, and Blais will deliver a "State of the Project" overview and program retrospective.

Breakout sessions throughout the day on Wednesday feature topics such as the federal government's perspective on STEM, an overview of STEM K-12 programs, marketing STEM education, and the new PLTW Biomedical Sciences curriculum.

Jack Aerncke, anchor and money editor of CBS 6 News in Albany, will speak at the luncheon on Wednesday.

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PLTW IN ACTION

Spanish Language Translations of PLTW Materials Published

In an effort to reach out to students and parents whose first language is Spanish, Project Lead The Way is printing Spanish language translations of several materials.

The Aerospace Engineering ("La ingeniería aeroespacial") and Biomedical & Biotechnical Engineering ("La ingeniería biomédica y biotécnica") editions spotlight successful female Hispanic engineers in these fields.

"Talented Girls, Bright Futures" ("Chicas con talento, futuros brillantes"), a booklet for parents of girls interested or involved in PLTW, will feature

testimonials from Hispanic female students at the Science Academy of South Texas about their experiences in PLTW classes.

"Our goal is to make PLTW more accessible to everyone," says Niel Tebbano, PLTW vice-president. "It is important to communicate diversity in our marketing materials to engage a Spanish-speaking audience."

To request copies of the Spanish language translations, visit www.pltw.org or call 518-877-6491.

