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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Horizon High School Achieves Project Lead the Way® Certification Recognition

Horizon High School has received full certification for their Project Lead The Way® program, a middle and high school math, science, technology, and engineering curriculum offered throughout the nation.

The primary purposes of the certification program are to recognize schools that have successfully demonstrated a commitment to the quality national standards of the Pathway to Engineering program, and to provide an opportunity for students to apply for college credit for selected PLTW® courses. Only 876 of the nearly 3,400 schools currently affiliated with PLTW have earned this certification, and Horizon earned their certification on the first attempt. Horizon is also one of five high schools in Arizona to earn their certification.

The structured yet flexible high school program offers students in-depth, hands-on knowledge of engineering and technology-based careers. The foundation courses include Introduction to Engineering Design™, Principles of Engineering™, and Digital Electronics™. The goal is to encourage students to become interested in these fields and to consider such future study as engineering and engineering technology.

Project Lead the Way, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to addressing the nation's shortage of engineers and technologists. Its national program includes Gateway To Technology® for middle or junior high school students and the Project Lead The Way® Pathway to Engineering, a multi-course high school program that is offered in nearly 3,400 schools in all 50 states.

Dr. Courson, principal of Horizon High School and a team composed of teachers Phil Howardell and Greg Cohen, counselor Tracey Lanese and Assistant Principal Linda Ihnat, students, and community completed an extensive assessment of the school's implementation of the Pathway to Engineering program. A team of PLTW® representatives who evaluated the school labs, teachers, and student portfolios visited horizon. The team highlighted Horizon's high level of support by administrators and counselors for the program as well the high expectations of student learning the teachers maintained in engineering classes.

Dr. Joe Tidwell, State PLTW director, will make a presentation to Dr. Courson celebrating Horizon High School's National Affiliate Certification on Wednesday, October 14th at 8:45 a.m. Join us in front of Horizon High School to celebrate Horizon being one of five high schools in Arizona and one of 876 PLTW® certified high schools in the nation.

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