



If We Lead, They Will Follow



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Project Lead The Way is laying the foundation, and SMCS is ready to follow as we get ready to build a K-12 STEM-based program. But first things first. Teachers need training--and what better way than to bring lead teachers to Milwaukee School of Engineering and provide them with the background and skills needed to train other teachers!

Recently, I was fortunate to spend time with two PLTW master educators who are actively teaching the curriculum that we are being trained to implement at our home schools. They know the ins and outs of what works in the classroom and what doesn't. On Day One we focused on the activities, projects, and problems that students would face in a kindergarten classroom as we learned about "The Structure and Function of the Human Body," one of the biomedical modules. In this hands-on and engaging module we explored various body systems and structures within the human body. Teachers-as-students gained experience working with and creating models of working lungs and arms using common materials. We even created a prototype of a waterproof cast. Then roles were reversed and we looked behind the scenes at the professional development and support available to educators who will be teaching modules in engineering, computer science, and biomedical strands.

Additional SMCS educators will be trained this summer to prepare for implementation of PLTW in our schools at the elementary level through the Launch program and at the middle school through the Gateway program this upcoming fall. Classroom teachers will participate in on-site professional development prior to the release of the curriculum for each specific grade level.

I am looking forward to returning to MSOE in August to supplement my training with a fun-filled day of VEX IQ robotics! Look out SMCS robotics teams, we are creating a new pipeline of up-and-coming engineers, programmers, and medical technicians--I think our teams will continue to qualify for both Nationals and Worlds for years to come!