

# Showin' Off Your STEM STORY

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**Previously worked for Carnival Cruise Line, FOX Sports Florida, Philadelphia Eagles**



*M.Ed in Early Childhood Education and Special Early Childhood Education*



*BA Communication Studies*



*Bilingual Educator*



*Virtual Educator*



*Dani Gomez*

*Director of New District Engagement*



# What Makes a Good STEM Story?

- *There's lots of interesting learning and work taking place in your classroom*
- *Let's identify a good story, and what that could be?*
- *How are your students identifying and solving a problem?*
- *Visually compelling – collaboration, hands-on, building something, relating to the community, classroom speaker – big or small*

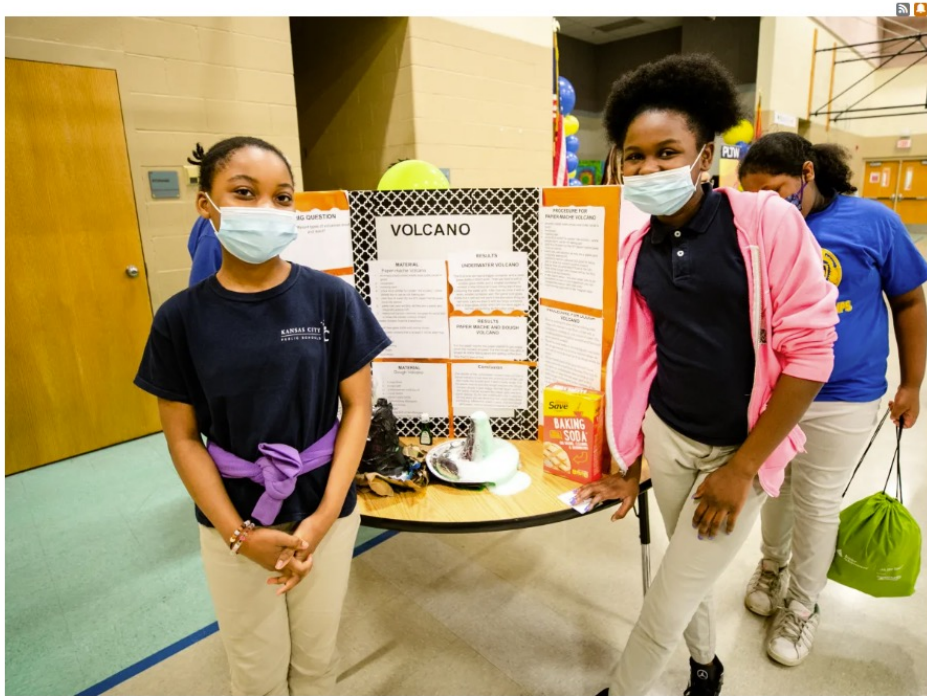
# Identify a Good Story in Your Own Classroom

- *Is there one lesson or hands-on project you've done in your class?*
- *Did the students build something that they can show off? Or explain their thinking around?*
- *What's "newsworthy" - early stages of learning advance skills*
- *Kindergarteners participating in early concepts of programming and computer science*
- *Automation and Robotics – designing their own paintbrushes*



# In the News!

## THROUGH PROJECT LEAD THE WAY LAUNCH, KCPS STUDENTS DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS



Students at Wendell Phillips Elementary show off their Project Lead The Way Launch projects at their school's science fair.

<https://www.kcpublicschools.org/kcps-news/kcps-news-board-page/~board/kcps-news/post/through-project-lead-the-way-launch-kcps-students-develop-critical-thinking-skills>

Local stories breed larger interest!

to share his results at the science fair.

Way Launch to elementary students during the 2017-18 school year. PLTW is an innovative, hands-on technology, engineering and math. They develop in-demand, transportable skills as they solve real-world

see evidence of the design; they have questions then can answer them," Ericka Mabion, KCPS iSpark Class Coordinator, said. "There is an extension that they didn't consider, but they learned from their PLTW classes, like the research component. They want to show off their learning, and it's amazing to see how they can articulate that."

In April, PLTW Interim President and CEO and Chief Impact Officer Dr. David Dimmett presented former Superintendent Dr. Mark Bedell with a framed copy of KCPS' Impact Profile measuring the program's success. PLTW now reaches more than 9,000 KCPS students each year.

Takeisha Brown, principal at Wendell Phillips Elementary, said her visual, tactile and auditory learners are thriving in their PLTW classes.

"Everyone isn't a paper and pencil type of person," Ms. Brown said. "(PLTW) allows innovation and allows students to show their strengths."

Hale Cook Principal Julie Lynch said PLTW Launch has helped her students develop critical thinking skills. According to PLTW, more than 60% of KCPS students can now solve real-world, interdisciplinary problems.



"If we are looking down the road to when students are leaving the K-12 system, whether that's going into the workforce immediately, ... going to a trade school (or) going to college, all those things encompass needing the skills of being able to analyze, build something or create," Ms. Lynch said. "When our first graders can design a shoe that will be best suited for a certain part of the world, they are putting those skills into action."

As part of Blueprint 2030, KCPS will be making academic and programmatic enhancements at all schools, adding opportunities for project-based learning across the district.

"Project Lead The Way has been an important partner for KCPS," said Dr. Jennifer Collier, 2022-23 Interim Superintendent. "We know students thrive when they have access to science, technology, engineering, arts and math classes. Blueprint 2030 will help us build strong STEAM programs accessible to all students."

KCPS started with PLTW Launch during the 2017-2018 school year, and today it is in 21 of our elementary schools.



# "Getting Your Quotes"

- *What are your students saying during their activities?*
- *Ask them questions like, what was the hardest part of getting this to work, what did you like best? Has any of this made you think about what you want to be when you grow up?*
- *Answers to these can all be generated into a quote to use on social or help create your story*
- *You can even keep this non-identifiable if needed*

# Extra, Extra! Read All About it!


- *Who to contact?*
- *Getting your STEM story told*
- *Utilize your school's communication team/contact, building leadership*





# Let's Look at Some Samples – share with your school's communication team!



 Project Lead The Way  
@PLTWorg

We love to see our PLTW Launch students in action! This @D99Cicero 5th grade class is wowing us with their coding and robotics skills. 🤖📚  
[@BurnsMacSTEM](#) #PLTW #STEMeducation





# Create Your Own STEM Story:

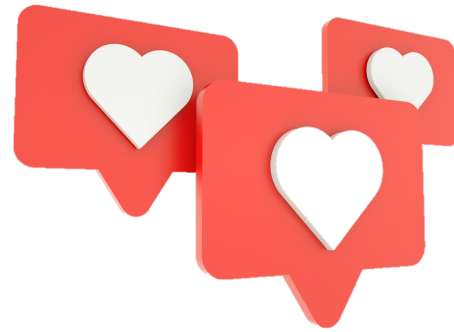
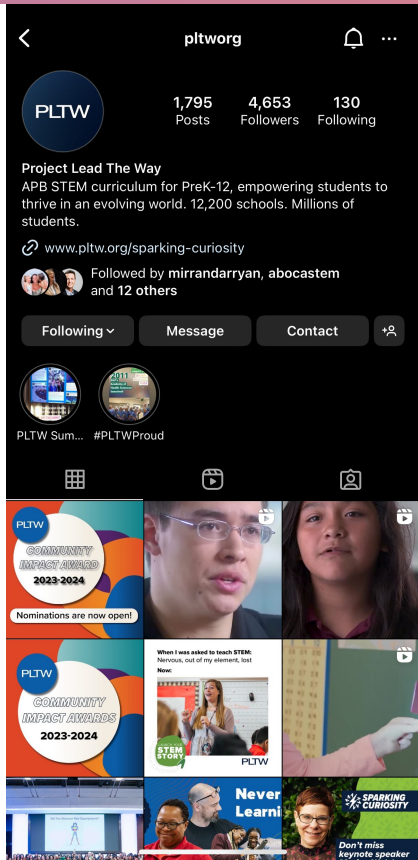
- *Looking for volunteers*
- *Let's put together a story:*
  - *What's our project?*
  - *Who can we interview?*
  - *What's the photo look like?*
  - *How will we share it?*

# Who's Your Audience?

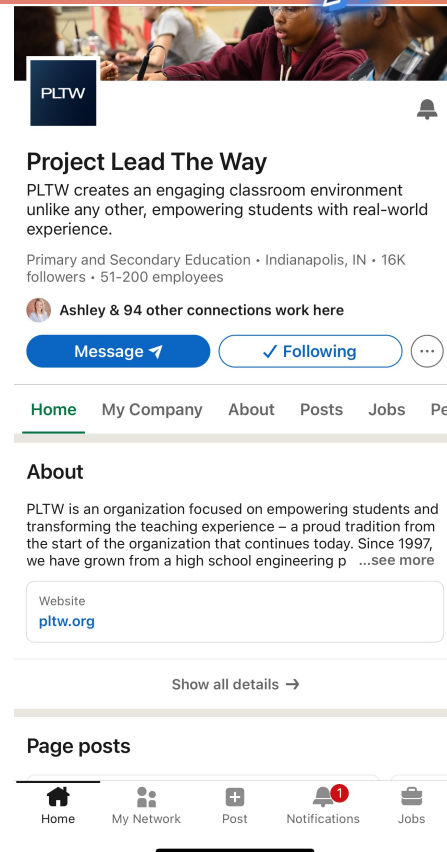
- *How to Reach Your Audience?*
- *Does Your School Have Sharing Platforms?*
  - *School website*
  - *School Socials*
  - *Google Classroom*
  - *Class Dojo*
  - *Newsletter*
- *\*Always check your school's photo & media policy*

# Show it Off – with Social Media

# #PLTW Proud



## Instagram: @PLTWOr



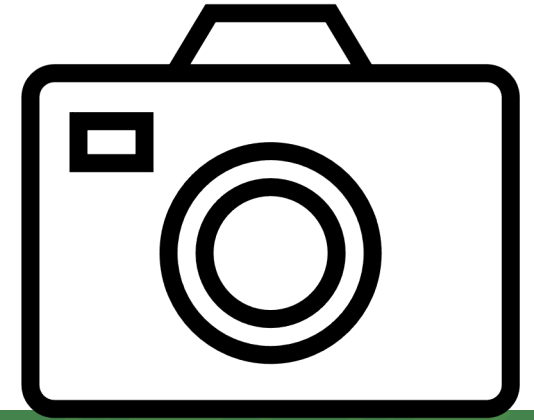
## LinkedIn: @Project Lead The Way



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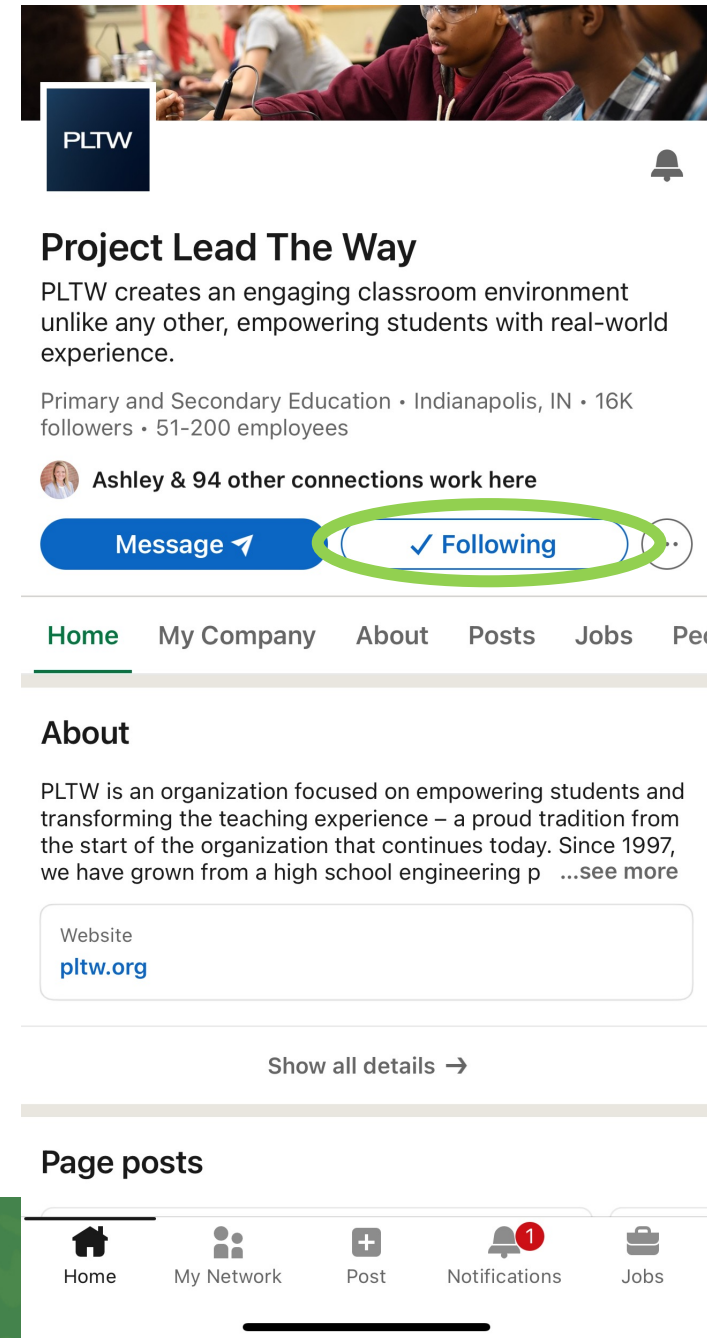
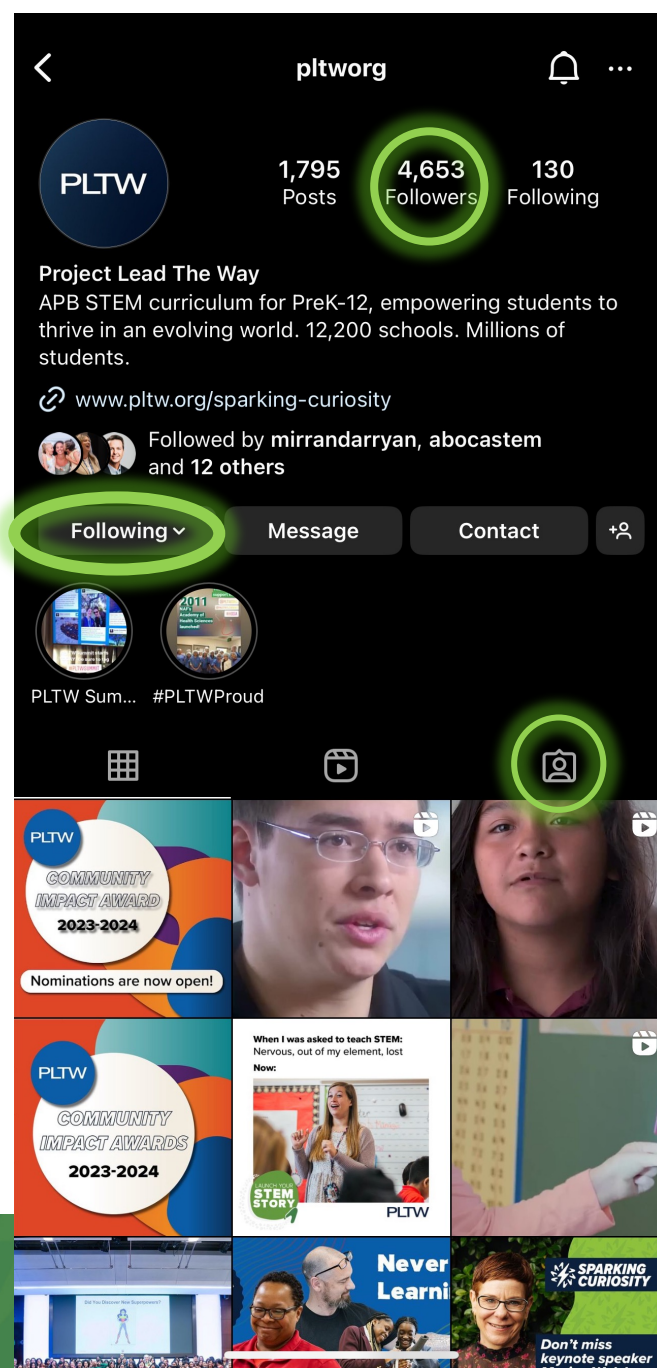
# PLTW

**Everything is  
Content!**





# See and Follow Some PLTW Schools and Teachers!



# Show & Tell!