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Santa Fe South Middle School Receives \$20,000 Grant to Implement Innovative Computer Science Curriculum by Project Lead The Way

OKC, OK - Students at **Santa Fe South Middle School** will soon have access to computer science courses that will give them an advantage in their education and future careers. The opportunity is made possible through a partnership between the Verizon Foundation and Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a nonprofit organization that provides transformative learning experiences for K-12 students and teachers through K-12 pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. Santa Fe South joins more than 10,500 schools across the U.S. in offering PLTW programs to students.

Santa Fe South is one of 72 schools across the country receiving part of a \$3 million grant provided by the Verizon Foundation for implementation of PLTW computer science curriculum. This is an expansion of a partnership that began in 2014 between the two organizations to increase students' access to computer science curriculum and help students develop the in-demand knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the rapidly advancing, technology-based economy.

"We are proud to have received the \$20,000 grant, thankful to Verizon and Project Lead The Way, and we look forward to developing an exceptional program which will build the foundation for many of our students to participate in the *Information Economy*."

Daniel Buckmaster, SFS Middle School Principal

PLTW Gateway's computer science units – [App Creators](#) and [Computer Science for Innovators and Makers](#) – are part of PLTW's K-12 Computer Science pathway and are built on PLTW's hands-on, project-based instructional approach. The units provide an opportunity for students to experience computer science in a relevant and engaging way, empowering them to solve real-world problems using the powerful ideas behind computational thinking, learn digital citizenship, and strengthen their critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills. The program sets them up for further computer science learning via PLTW's four-year Computer Science program in high school.

"Project Lead The Way is committed to preparing our nation's next generation of problem-solvers and innovators," said PLTW President and CEO Vince Bertram. "In partnership with Verizon, we are significantly increasing the number of students who have access to high-quality computer science education and will be prepared for these growing career opportunities."

The grant funds will be disbursed over a two-year period to offset startup costs associated with implementing the units. They will also support professional development for teachers and provide schools with equipment including tablets and software.

About PLTW

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-12 students and teachers across the U.S. PLTW empowers students to develop in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. PLTW's teacher training and resources support teachers as they engage their students in real-world learning. More than 10,500 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs. For more information on Project Lead The Way, visit pltw.org.