



## **For Immediate Release**

**May 19, 2014**

### **Trask Middle School to Thank CFF Investors for Funding Project Lead The Way Announcement About Program Expansion to be Made**

**Wilmington, NC** – On Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, Trask Middle School students will host the investors in the Wilmington Chamber's Cape Fear Future (CFF) initiative to say thank you for bringing the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) program to the school and for extending funding to continue the program for 2014-15. Wilmington Chamber Board members and Chamber Foundation Board members will also be in attendance, as well as a representative from NHC Schools who will make an announcement about the expansion of the Project Lead The Way program to additional New Hanover County schools. A video about the program's first year will be unveiled at the event, and students will be on hand for demonstrations of their course work, which has included engineering, robotics, computer modeling and automation.

Project Lead The Way is a program of coursework incorporating science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) that was implemented for sixth graders at Trask Middle School during the 2013-14 school year due to an investment by the Wilmington Chamber's Cape Fear Future initiative. Students have been participating in the Gateway To Technology track that is designed to give students a solid foundation for further STEM learning in high school and beyond.

"The Project Lead The Way program has been very well received in its first year at Trask," said Wilmington Chamber President & CEO Connie Majure-Rhett. "Chuck Leake, the PLTW teacher, has told us that students are so enamored with the program that they ask to skip physical education classes and their lunch time to work on their robotics and modeling projects. They are very excited that the Chamber's Cape Fear Future initiative will be funding the program again next year for the rising seventh graders so they can continue their coursework."

The event will be held on Wednesday, May 21st at 11:30 am at Trask Middle School. Media are invited to attend the event. Please RSVP attendance to Scott Czechlewski: 762-2611 ext. 216 / [czechlewski@wilmingtonchamber.org](mailto:czechlewski@wilmingtonchamber.org).

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### **About Cape Fear Future**

The mission of Cape Fear Future - the flagship program of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce - is to further develop the region's knowledge sector economy to promote economic development and ensure the prosperity of the region. The initiative aims to create a community where knowledge sector workers would like to live, work and play. CFF has three main focus areas:

- Assist the improvement of our area school systems and expand emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM);
- Improve the overall image of the greater Wilmington region by delivering community improvement projects that enhance quality of life; and
- Foster an entrepreneurial community by supporting and promoting entrepreneurs.

### **About Project Lead the Way**

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education curricular programs used in schools. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, PLTW exists to prepare students for the global economy through its world-class curriculum, high-quality professional development, and an engaged network of educators, students, universities and professionals. PLTW's comprehensive curriculum has been collaboratively designed by PLTW teachers, university educators, engineering and biomedical professionals, and school administrators to promote critical thinking, creativity, innovation and real-world problem solving skills in students. The hands-on, project-based program engages students on multiple levels, exposes them to areas of study that they typically do not pursue, and provides them with a foundation and proven path to college and career success. More than 4,700 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are currently offering PLTW courses to their students. For more information, visit [www.pltw.org](http://www.pltw.org).