

Mount Ayr Record News

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Project Lead the Way showcased at capitol

Mount Ayr Community high school was one of the schools from across the state that helped Iowa legislators become more familiar with the Project Lead the Way program in a legislative showcase held Tuesday, March 23, at the state capitol.

Governor Chet Culver accepted the 2009 Joseph H. Oakey Excellence in Education Award on behalf of the state of Iowa as part of the day's celebration of the program.

Project Lead the Way is a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education initiative that prepares students to excel in high-tech fields.

Iowa was recognized for its outstanding commitment to PLTW, its commitment to providing students with greater access to higher education and its efforts to create partnerships to build a strong and sustainable PLTW program in Iowa's schools. At the ceremony were representatives from nearly 25 schools participating in Project Lead the Way in Iowa.

Students also set up booths around the capitol where legislators could stop by and see examples of their work. PLTW students from across the state were displaying their engineering notebooks, portfolios and projects in the capitol

rotunda. Representing Mount Ayr Community high school were Jesse Penick, Hannah Blanton, Leah Klejch and Ethan Pollock. They were accompanied by instructor Scott Giles.

Speaking on behalf of industries that are cooperating in the program was Todd Blanton from Heartland Energy Solutions Inc. in Mount Ayr.

To ensure statewide access to the Project Lead the Way program, the Iowa Department of Economic Development invested \$1 million, leveraging an additional \$1.2 mil-

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