

January 2016

Dear Friends of Barnesville Schools:

The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates that jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) will grow 17 percent by 2018—nearly double the growth for non-STEM fields. By 2018, the U.S. will have more than 1.2 million unfilled STEM jobs because there will not be enough qualified workers to fill them. STEM is where jobs are today and where the job growth will be in the future.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is the nation's leading provider of K-12 STEM programs. The program's world-class curriculum and high-quality teacher professional development model, combined with an engaged network of educators and corporate and community partners, help students develop the skills necessary to succeed in our global economy. PLTW's success in preparing students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed has been recognized by colleges and universities, Fortune 500 businesses, and numerous national organizations including Change the Equation, the Social Impact Exchange, and more.

The Barnesville Exempted Village School District's goal is to prepare students for the global economy. To do this, the district has implemented the Project Lead the Way STEM program in both the middle school and high school. At the middle school, students have the opportunity to take Design & Modeling and Automation & Robotics. At the high school, students may take Introduction to Engineering Design. The district plans to offer more Project Lead the Way STEM classes in future school years.

To help meet this goal, the Barnesville Exempted Village School District formed an alliance with the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley through the Smith Goshen Rice Enrichment Fund. The purpose of this partnership is to create a school district of excellence, offering STEM programming to our students. In order to accomplish this goal, the district has established a multi-phase plan.

The costs of implementing and expanding the Project Lead the Way course offerings include teacher training and related expenses, annual program registration fee, course supplies, and computer purchases. This plan will help to ensure that the school district stays focused on the goal of expanding STEM curriculum for students.

*This is where we need your help!*

We write to ask you to support Barnesville Schools. If you are interested in donating to this initiative, please mail your donation directly to the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley and write "Barnesville Schools" in the memo line of your check. For your convenience, you may also donate online at [www.cfov.org](http://www.cfov.org) and, again, please write "Barnesville Schools" in the designation line. We promise that we will not call you, but we do hope that you will respond positively to our written request. Remember, that your gift is tax-deductible. Your donation will be recognized in the annual report of the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley.

*The Smith-Goshen Rice Enrichment Fund of the Community Foundation will match our donations. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 with a \$5,000 match from the Foundation for a total of \$10,000. All money will go to sustaining and expanding the PLTW programs at the middle school and high school.*

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or need additional information. Thank you in advance for your support. Together, we CAN make a difference!

Sincerely,

Randy Lucas, Superintendent

Barnesville Exempted Village School District

740-425-3639

Susie Nelson, Executive Director

Community Foundation for Ohio Valley

304-242-3144